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THE JOURNAL

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Cityside On the night beat with the El Cerrito police [A3]
Sports Mighty Gauchos advance to finals vs. De Anza [B1]

Will revamp overlook some?

Retimed thoroughfare doesn't take pedestrians, merchants into account

By J. R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — Some people dream of making San Pablo Avenue a high-tech, highly coordinated, streamlined thoroughfare of timed stop lights, satellite tracking and closed circuit cameras.

Others fear things may become a bit too efficient.

After a consultant's presentation to the City Council last week on the planned San Pablo Avenue "smart corridor" project, some members of the public and on the council wondered if businesses might be hurt if people drive through El Cerrito too quickly to see what's there to buy. Others worried that too much emphasis will be placed on automobiles moving

along the avenue and not enough on pedestrians and local drivers trying to get across it safely.

"I guess I'm concerned that San Pablo Avenue be considered not only as a traffic corridor but also as a commercial corridor," Steve Price told the council last week.

Price, a member of El Cerrito's Planning Commission, said that "being overly concerned with traffic flow can often actually undermine commercial development along the corridor."

He contended that recent studies show efforts resulting in increased traffic flow can be "deadly for commercial development." He said it is actually best for local businesses if drivers "stop at signals

and look around" at intersections.

Anush Nejad, of the traffic engineering firm Kimley-Horn and Associates of Pleasanton, the consulting firm on the "smart corridor" project, made the presentation to the City Council.

In response to Price's comments, Nejad said consultants are not looking at the "economic side of issues or land use issues." Instead, they were focusing on "improving the signal coordination" and finding ways to minimize traffic delays.

According to Nejad's report, the San Pablo Avenue signal interconnect project "will provide a seamless signal system along the San Pablo Avenue corridor from 17th Street in Oakland to Route 4 in Hercules." The corridor includes about

90 traffic signals in 10 public jurisdictions.

The system is expected to improve traffic flow along the corridor and "better manage" traffic diversion from Interstate 80. Nejad said that a communication system is now under construction along some portions of the corridor. In El Cerrito, the consultants are presently collecting data and doing traffic counts. Signal coordination is expected to be in place by the end of 1999.

A more complex, "intelligent transportation system" is expected to be phased in after that and may eventually include video monitoring, ramp metering, roadbed sensors, satellite tracking of buses and changeable message signs.

Janet Abelson, who also is a member of El Cerrito's Planning Commission, wondered if pedestrians and local drivers will be able to get across the newly coordinated and rewired avenue. "All the emphasis is on moving cars or vehicles quickly through town as opposed to allowing those of us who live in town to get across San Pablo - be it in cars or on foot," Abelson said. She said that getting across San Pablo Avenue, especially at the Del Norte area, is difficult.

Councilman Norman La Force noted that "it really isn't our project" and said that "the whole point" of the project is to have a "diversionary route for the con-

See REVAMP, Page A10

Car dealer eyes new lot

Honda may relocate to blighted Food Bowl property

By J. R. Deaton

EL CERRITO—When the city's biggest sales tax producer talks—the City Council listens—and helps out when it can.

El Cerrito Honda wants to move to a bigger location and after looking at other places, it appears the old Food Bowl property could be the answer. If the Food Bowl site and adjacent areas could be cleared for Honda, the dealership would lease the 3.5-acre site and keep most of its operations within El Cerrito city limits.

Last week the City Council/Redevelopment Agency voted unanimously to begin working on an exclusive agreement with Hendrick Automotive, the parent company of El Cerrito Honda, to develop the Food Bowl site. The dealership wants agency (public) money for such things as building demolition, utility undergrounding, street improvements and vacating adjacent Knott Avenue.

About 60 percent of the proposed site lies in El Cerrito — the rest is in the city of Richmond — and the two jurisdictions will have to negotiate a deal to coordinate the project. The staff report states that it appears automobile sales would be permitted under Richmond zoning regulations, but automotive repair work will require a use permit from that city.

"The relocation of El Cerrito Honda to the Food Bowl site represents a proactive economic development activity and fulfills several economic development objectives," said Elisa Tierney, El Cerrito's Redevelopment Program Manager in a report to the agency last week. Tierney said to move would retain and expand the city's biggest sales tax producer, it would remain one of the city's largest employers and would replace the vacant and unattractive Food Bowl site with a new Honda dealership. El Cerrito Honda employs 90 people and generates about 28 percent of the city's total sales tax revenue.

The new and expanded Honda dealership, Tierney explained, could produce



The long vacant Food Bowl site and adjacent property is being proposed as the new home of El Cerrito Honda.

an extra \$125,000 in sales tax for El Cerrito and another automobile dealership at the old site could result in an additional \$150,000 in sales taxes coming to city coffers. "Taken together, El Cerrito Honda's relocation to the Food Bowl site and a replacement tenant at the old site could result in a sales tax increase to the city totaling \$275,000" Tierney told the agency board at the meeting.

Speaking at the meeting, Lyle Nick, the general manager of El Cerrito Honda,

said he expects \$70 million in sales during the first year at the planned new location.

He noted that about 250,000 commuters a day travel Interstate 80 and that the new location would give his dealership increased visibility. Nick also said that for the volume of business the dealership does, it really requires four times as much space as it currently occupies.

"The goal of Honda of El Cerrito is to stay in El Cerrito and be a viable part of

Albany sets goals for '99

Playing fields, ferry service, open space among top priorities

By James Carter

ALBANY - The City Council moved last week to prioritize its goals for 1999 to include purchasing land for playing fields at UC Village, play a "more active" role in plans to construct a ferry terminal near Gilman Street, and formulate a humane approach toward development of the bulb.

Meeting during a Tuesday night session Feb. 16, City Administrator Daren Fields also reviewed "major achievements" made during the last council's tenure.

Fields pointed to the acquisition of open space on Albany Hill, completion of Phase I of the Solano Avenue Project, and a major sewer line renovation as some of that council's accomplishments.

Council members made suggestions while reviewing a list of goals set by the previous council in Feb. 1998.

Councilman Alan Marrs asked staff to play a more active role in efforts to build a ferry terminal near the Albany/Berkeley border. The project was

proposed by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and was enthusiastically endorsed by both Albany and Berkeley city councils as well as several waterfront organizations and commissions in both cities.

If developed, the ferries could transport 800 commuters a day from Gilman Street to San Francisco. Albany/Berkeley is just one area for transbay commuting by the MTC, which last week proposed a major expansion of ferry service availability around the Bay.

Marrs also suggested more should be done to reclaim \$1.7 million in funding "reallocated" by the State Department of Parks and Recreation in June 1997. The funds were part of a \$2.5 million agreement signed by the city and State Parks in 1985, money earmarked for toxic cleanup of the bulb.

Effort to reclaim state funding

Fields told The Journal the controversial take back occurred when the state "just decided at one point to use [the \$1.7

See GOALS, Page A10

Audible crossing signals coming to El Cerrito

By J. R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — No, that's not the gods talking to you — the "cuckoo" and "peep-peep" sounds you will soon be hearing along San Pablo Avenue are not unsolicited commentary—they are audible traffic signals making our city streets safer for the blind and sight-impaired.

Last week the City Council acknowledged a \$3,774 donation from Albany/El Cerrito Access and authorized an additional \$2,500 from the city's maintenance budget to purchase audible traffic signal equipment for four of El Cerrito's busiest intersections.

"The primary purpose of this equipment is to provide improved safety for our sight-impaired community," explains a bulletin from the city's Community Development Department.

The audible signal will only sound when activated by a push button attached to the traffic signal light pole.

The signals emit "bird-like sounds" allowing sight impaired individuals to cross intersections in coordination with existing "walk" and "don't walk" pedestrian signals.

The devices make a "cuckoo" sound for north-south travelers and a "peep-

peep" sound for east-west crosswalk directions.

They have a volume control and will be adjusted to the "desired but effective level" after installation.

Caltrans will have the signals installed sometime before June at four San Pablo Avenue intersections: Carlson Boulevard, Central and Potrero avenues and Moeser Lane.

Barbara Paul, the rehabilitation counselor at Albany's Orientation Center for the Blind said that the audible signals can be a help to the sight-impaired, especially at certain intersections.

She described the Carlson Boulevard at San Pablo Avenue as "big-time problematic." She said that at such a "particularly complex" intersection "where you have traffic patterns that change during the day and a lot of right hand turn traffic" the audible signals increase safety.

Maintenance and Engineering Services Manager Mori Struve met with Albany and El Cerrito members of the sight-impaired community last year at the orientation center.

At the meeting was Janet Abelson, a member of Albany/El Cerrito Access, a local group dedicated to improving access for the disabled.

"People definitely wanted audible sig-

INDEX

■ Bill Mann	Page A4
■ Community Folk	Page A2
■ Martin Snapp	Page A4
■ School Watch	Page A5
■ Sports	Page B1

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KNIGHT RIDDER

INFORMATION FOR L

WORTH CHECKING OUT

Purim Carnival

Temple Beth Hillel's annual Purim Carnival, featuring children's games, music, costumes, prizes and plenty of food, starts at noon on Feb. 28 at 801 Park Central in Richmond across from Hilltop Mall. Details: 223-2560.

Pancake breakfast

Harding Elementary School's annual pancake breakfast is Saturday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the cafeteria of the school at Fairmount and Ashbury avenues. Adults: \$4, kids \$2.

'Ulysses' lecture

Ulysses and the Common Reader is the topic of Robert Alter, Ph.D. on Friday from noon to 1:30 p.m. Alter is the class of '37 Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature at UCB. The lecture is at the Center for Psychological Studies, 1398 Solano Ave. (at Carmel) in Albany. Details: 524-0291.

Infant/toddler lapsit

Registration is open for the second series of the Infant-Toddler Lapsit Program will be offered again at the El Cerrito Branch of the Contra Costa County Library. This program is for parents and their very young children from birth through age 2-1/2. Simple stories, rhymes and songs will be used during this 20-minute program to help children develop such pre-reading skills as listening, language de-

velopment and a deep love of books and a desire to learn to read. Parents will be asked to attend with their young children. The second half of Session 1 takes place Mondays at 1 p.m., March 15 - April 12. Session II takes place Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. from now through Feb. 25, and March 18 through April 15. The El Cerrito Branch is located at 6510 Stockton Ave., 528-7512.

Albany board openings

The Albany City Council is seeking interested citizens for appointment to the following boards, commissions and committees: Civil Service Board Library Advisory Board Park & Recreation Commission Arts Committee Charter Review Committee Waterfront Committee Mental Health Advisory Board. Interested applicants can contact the City Clerk for an application and description of each board, commission or committee. Details: 528-5720 or visit City Hall at 1000 San Pablo Ave.

First Aid class

The Albany Fire Department will conduct an American Red Cross First Aid class on Saturday, Feb. 27. The class will be held at the fire department starting at 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration for the class is \$25. Registration will be accepted at the Albany Finance Department located 1000 San Pablo Ave. in the Albany City Hall complex. There are only 12 spaces currently available.

Details: 528-5771 ext. 433.

Women's History talk

In celebration of Women's History Month, Barnes & Noble is hosting a free talk on Mary Baker Eddy's book, "Science and Health with Key to the Scripture" at 2362 Shattuck Ave. at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 7. Join speaker Mrs. Earline Shoemaker, C.S.B., in exploring how this book, dubbed one of 75 "books by women whose words have changed the world" by the women's National Book Association, has empowered millions of readers to improve their physical and mental well-being. Details: 644-0661.

I-80 work

Today and tomorrow Caltrans will close the westbound Interstate-80 Albany off-ramp and both lanes on Cleveland Avenue under the I-80-580/Buchanan Street interchange in Albany. The ramp and Cleveland Avenue will close each day at 7 a.m. and reopen at 4 p.m. During this time, construction crews will remove temporary support structures from the interchange. Motorists may use the westbound I-80 Central Avenue off-ramp and Pierce Street as an alternative route during the closure. Next Monday, through Friday, Caltrans will close the westbound I-80 Albany off-ramp and both lanes on Cleveland Avenue under the I-80-580/Buchanan Street interchange each evening at 8 p.m. and reopen them the following morning at 5 a.m.

Officer's quick action leads to arrest of robbery suspects

POLICE REPORTS

8, ripped off a car stereo and wheels valued at \$2,600.

■ A burglar pried open the window of a home on the 1300 block of Rifle Range Road on Feb. 8, picked a lock and made off with \$3,650 worth of property.

■ Near the BART track the evening of Feb. 12, a teenaged boy was arrested after he got into a fight with police and damaged a police car.

■ A thief shattered the window of a car parked on the 5700 block of El Dorado Feb. 11-12, and ripped off a computer bag containing employee manuals.

■ On Feb. 13, a vigilant neighbor on the 7300 block of Donal Avenue called the police after two young men broke into a truck then fled in Blazer.

Apparently disappointed by their slim pickings, the thieves returned, smashed their Blazer into the truck, raced off then abandoned their vehicle — which was stolen — just blocks away. Police later arrested the

two on a number of charges.

■ A 20-year-old man was arrested for speeding at 4:10 a.m. on Feb. 13, on the 1400 block of El Cerrito in Richmond. Police searched his car, uncovering a cane knives hidden under the seat.

■ At around noon Feb. 13, a 20-year-old woman attempted to cash a stolen check at Wells Fargo Bank, leading to a false ID. She was arrested for forgery.

■ Two juvenile males attempted to steal movies from Blockbuster Video on the 11200 block of El Cerrito Ave. Feb. 15. However, they were caught by store employees detained until police arrived.

■ Two young men ripped off a stereo speaker from Pep Boys on Feb. 16.

■ A burglar broke into a home on the 2000 block of El Cerrito Ave. Feb. 16, stole property and escaped.

■ During the afternoon of Feb. 16, a vandal smashed a car on the 7000 block of Montezuma.

The new path outside St. Alban's

A maze usually has walls or hedges that function as blinders, and a number of dead ends. Walking a maze is a contest to see if you can find your way out of being lost. A labyrinth is flat, usually round or octagonal, and is "a mysterious winding path that, as it takes us to the center, becomes a metaphor for our own spiritual journey. Going in, we release the cares and concerns which distract us from our Source. The center is a place of prayer and meditations where we receive clarity about our lives."

The Rev. Dr. Artress has studied the labyrinths in Chartres and Amiens and other places, and stirred the interest of clergy people throughout the country. Grace Cathedral in San Francisco now has two, one being made of carpeting, and is, I am told, a wonder to behold.

So it was that Pastor Stickney was speaking longingly of having a labyrinth at St. Alban's when one of his parishioners, Bob Essert, said, "I'll build it." And so it came about. Of course, Bob thought he would have a great deal of help from other members of the church, but although he did put up a sign explaining what he was doing in the courtyard, and inviting anyone interested to come in and help build it, he has had few takers. But with his wife, Mary, and the pastor doing the planning — the esoteric part, Bob says — he finds he enjoys doing the actual work.

The new labyrinth is taking the place of an old patio built in the 1950s in the entrance of St. Alban's. It was made of brick, and Essert is using those same bricks for the labyrinth. But the center and the outlines of the octagonal are to be ground marble, mixed with cement. It will be ground down to an even surface.

I am not a religious person, but walking that rather tortured path

Community Folk

By Clara Rae Genser

with Bob, I found that it does, indeed, do something.

Perhaps for me it was just that the following of the path left my mind free of the usual buzzing, busy activity that fills it at all other times, and by the time I reached the center I was in a meditative, receptive mode and could understand why it is a religious thing.

In her book Dr. Artres offers various ways to approach the labyrinth, including Gracious Attention (just be present to the moment and to how you feel); Asking a Question (focus on a question you have been asking yourself); Use of Repetition (Select a word or phrase to repeat over and over to yourself as you walk); Reading Scripture (select psalms or passages and read them as you walk) and Praying for Help or Guidance (What kind of help do you need?).

Part of the statement put out by St. Alban's about the labyrinth, speaking of what it is and what it does ends thus: "The labyrinth is a mandala that meets our longing — for a change of heart; for a change of ways in how we live together on this fragile island home; and for the energy, vision, and the courage to become agents of transformation in an age when no less will suffice to meet the challenges of survival."

Bob Essert and Mary have been part of St. Alban's for five years. He is a retired electrical engineer. They have adult children living as close as Piedmont, others living in London and Washington, D.C.

Bob speaks of the labyrinth eagerly, explaining the 11 concentric rings, the 18 labyers, the turn-

arounds. The turn-arounds are important, he says, reflecting the turns in life. The center will have two concentric rings, and a bronze door with a Jerusalem Cross. They have a donor for the bronze plaque which will explain the labyrinth and what it means.

Essert says many churches are now building labyrinths, including one in Livermore, and another in the planning stage for an Episcopal church in Berkeley.

The work has been an adventure, he tells us. Originally he thought it would take about two years. But he started it in September, and finds it should be finished some time in March, except for some fine finishing touches. He was doing things like splitting bricks for the spaces, but found he could buy something called Soap (the size of a bar of soap) which makes his job much easier.

Essert provided me with a great deal of information on labyrinths, and I find it fascinating. But, as usual, neither time nor space allow for more. But what a beautiful job he is doing, and how wonderful that pastor Stickney's dream is coming true, and so beautifully.

It was Pastor Jim Stickney who called me about the labyrinth. I did enjoy meeting and talking with Bob Essert. And I thank the Pastor for e-mailing me about it.

And, as always, I invite your input: interesting people, events, organizations, travel, etc. Please write me at 555 Pierce St., #443, Albany, CA 94706 or call 525-4585. My e-mail is crgenser@aol.com.

Albany, EC team work results in arrest

By K. Osborn

ALBANY — At about 1 a.m. on Feb. 15 Albany officers responded to the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of a disturbance.

They found two people who had been attacked and robbed while they were in their car in a parking lot of the Albany Bowl. Evidently two subjects started an altercation with the passenger, causing a diversion, while a third subject pointed a gun at the driver and demanded his jacket.

The trio then fled. Moments later Albany officers learned that El Cerrito police had stopped two subjects who matched the description of the thieves and were arresting the driver, a 20-year-old Rodeo man, for DUI.

The passenger was an 18-year-old Rodeo man and brother to the driver. The victims identified the two as the attackers and they were also arrested for conspiracy and robbery.

They were cited and released with a Notice to Appear. The third thief, the one who carried the gun, was not located.

■ At about 9 p.m. on Feb. 14 Albany officers stopped a silver '87 Cadillac on the 1000 block of Buchanan Street for a traffic violation. The driver, a 19-year-old Hayward man was found to be in possession of marijuana and was arrested. He was cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

■ On the morning of Feb. 15 a resident on the 800 block of Jackson Street reported that thieves had stolen the shell off her green '93 Toyota pickup. There were no witnesses.

■ At about noon on Feb. 15 a resident on the 500 block of Madison

Street reported that the previous night vandals had slashed the tire of his Buick. There were no witnesses.

■ On the morning of Feb. 16 a resident on the 900 block of Talbot Avenue reported that during the night thieves broke into her blue '91 Toyota Corolla by smashing the rear passenger window. The thief conducted a messy prow and stole items. There were no witnesses.

■ During the night of Feb. 15 and the early morning hours of Feb. 16 thieves broke into at least eight vehicles parked on the 500 block of Pierce Street stealing various items from them. There were no witnesses.

■ On the morning of Feb. 17 an 18-year-old Albany woman and a 19-year-old Berkeley man reported that they were attacked while walking on the 1200 block of Washington Avenue.

They explained that several people in a black and gray '96 Ford Mustang drove past them, stopped, then got out of the car with large sticks, a lead pipe and a baseball bat.

They hit the man on the shoulder with the bat and pushed the woman to the ground.

They stole the woman's backpack. Albany officers located the car and the occupants.

They arrested two El Cerrito boys ages 14 and 16, a 15-year-old Richmond boy and a 15-year-old Kensington boy and transported them all to Juvenile Hall. The fifth occupant, an 18-year-old Richmond woman was arrested and transported to the Berkeley jail.

■ Just after midnight on Feb. 20 Albany officers contacted a 36-year-old Albany woman in the parking lot of the Salvation Army store on the

1300 block of Solano Avenue who was going through donated items. She found that she had outstanding warrants for possession of drug paraphernalia. She was arrested, charged with a Notice to Appear.

■ On Feb. 20 Albany officers stopped a 34-year-old Berkeley man on a motorcycle for a traffic violation. A check found that he had a warrant for narcotic violations. Alameda County and was also in session of a large amount of marijuana. He was arrested and transported to the Berkeley jail.

■ At about 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 20 Albany officers contacted a 19-year-old Albany man for disorderly conduct. He was found to have been drinking but said he was on his way home.

He was allowed to depart but was warned that further contact that evening could result in his being arrested. About 20 minutes later again observed the man, who was even further from his home.

He was found to be very intoxicated and unable to care for himself. He was arrested and cited to be released when sober.

During the week of Feb. 16, officers fingerprinted three people on their request, towed one responded to eight false alarms, and six people who were locked out of their house or car and responded six reports of barking dogs. In domestic arena officers responded eight reports of civil disturbances, 71 Civil Assists.

Albany firefighters responded to two fire calls and three medical emergencies.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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's fans rally; hope a new buyer emerges

By Sean Yokomizo

The rain was coming down in earnest, but the group standing beneath the banner bearing the Oakland Athletics logo was not "fair weather." There was no game scheduled, and the Oakland Athletics Fan Coalition braved a morning rainstorm Feb. 7 to show their respect for the team by keeping their favorite team safe at home.

The purpose is to prove to the world that the A's have fans who support the team," said Lil Bartholo, cofounder of the coalition and a member from as far as San Jose and Novato.

The core of baseball boosters is to lure a buyer for the franchise. The coalition hopes to increase its size to 100 members by the end of the year. The coalition will commit to both keeping the team in Oakland and making the team competitive again. They hope that by doing what true baseball fans do — watching ball games, thinking of themselves as the best — the team will be able to attract a buyer. Bartholo said, while seeking support from the rain. "We're the only fans that are calling for the team to be competitive," said Cope. The coalition sports a list of 53 people and in only about two months they have come up with pledges amounting to a \$1 million increase in ticket sales from the last season. The coalition has signed a petition promising to increase their attendance.

While that might not be enough to lure a week's salary from some players, it's a step in the right direction, particularly with the help of prospective buyers investing in a possible purchase of the team from owners Steve Schott and Jeff Marmorek.

"We've just begun," said Jeff Marmorek, a Piedmont resident and member of America's pastime. The coalition hopes to demonstrate widespread support for their team during a regular season game by having a whole section of the stadium with like-minded fans. Marmorek said the efforts of the coalition are intended to resolve the

OAKLAND ATHLETICS FAN COALITION

For more information about the coalition visit their website at www.oaklandfans.com or write Oakland Athletics Fan Coalition, 1714 Franklin St., Suite 100

conundrum of which declined first, fan attendance or the quality of the team as reflected in the payroll.

"We disagree with ownership that says they lowered the payroll because the fans aren't turning out for games," he said. "The reason the fans don't turn out is because of the lower payroll." Ron Cope, a coalition member from Walnut Creek, stressed that the diehard fans don't expect the team to break any spending records, but they would like to see their team win at least half the games in a season.

"We don't expect them to have the highest payroll, but we do expect them to be competitive," said Cope.

He said that both the team and fans have been maligned since news of the A's proposed sale broke. The coalition hopes to repair that situation and re-ignite enthusiasm surrounding a proud baseball tradition.

"We're kind of fighting the negative publicity," said Cope.

The bottom-line, contends the group, is that Oakland does have a base of loyal fans that will attend games and the A's don't need to move.

Through their positive actions they hope to show a potential buyer what Terry Bratcher, of Albany, and the other coalition members already know.

Despite the massive renovations it has undergone, the Oakland Coliseum "is still a great place to play baseball and it's still a great place to watch baseball," Bratcher said.

On the night patrol

While most of the city sleeps police officers make their rounds

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO: It was a dark and stormy night — it really was. As the rains came down on a recent weekend the drunk drivers came out and Sgt. Shawn Maples and his crew of four police officers were there to keep the (sometimes) mean streets of El Cerrito a little safer.

Wearing their black utility uniforms, with the blue and gold El Cerrito Police Department arm patch and star, Maples and his crew wrote a few tickets, took a few fingerprints, got a few drunks off the road, drank some coffee, heard a few tearful pleas, cleared out a raucous party, gave some warnings and got wet.

"This is a typical rainy night," Watch Commander Maples said while cruising San Pablo Avenue a little before midnight last Saturday. He said the rain usually keeps people off the streets and indoors.

As the dispatcher's voice crackles from his radio, Maples answers questions, keeps one ear on the radio, one eye on the road and the other out for anything suspicious. Things that cause a closer look are broken windows or open doors or lights on in a business supposed to be closed.

Suspicious behavior might be someone walking at midnight in the rain in an otherwise sleeping neighborhood — it might be a car driving with its lights off behind a business location — it might be a weaving automobile or a driver making unsafe lane changes.

The 32-year-old Maples has been with the ECPD 12 years and has seen it all — or at least enough. He has never had to shoot someone, but he has had to draw his gun "countless" times.

He's had to break up fights between husbands and wives, clean up after automobile accidents, chase down criminals and respond to calls after a child is found dead in its crib.

He's been assaulted and spit on. He says, with some sadness in his voice and manner, that being a police officer has made him "more callous."

Maples has worked a variety of jobs at the ECPD and answers "oh yeah" when asked if he likes being a cop. He is married and has two children — 6 and 4 years old.

As the night shift progresses, one of Maples' officers has stopped a late-model Honda Prelude on the road with its lights off. Driving without lights or making wide swinging turns "are real strong indicators that somebody's hammered," Maples explains

'Even though you're going to help someone — their experience or what they're going through at that time is the most traumatic experience that they've had — their house has been burglarized — their privacy has been violated.'

El Cerrito Police Sgt. Shawn Maples

later.

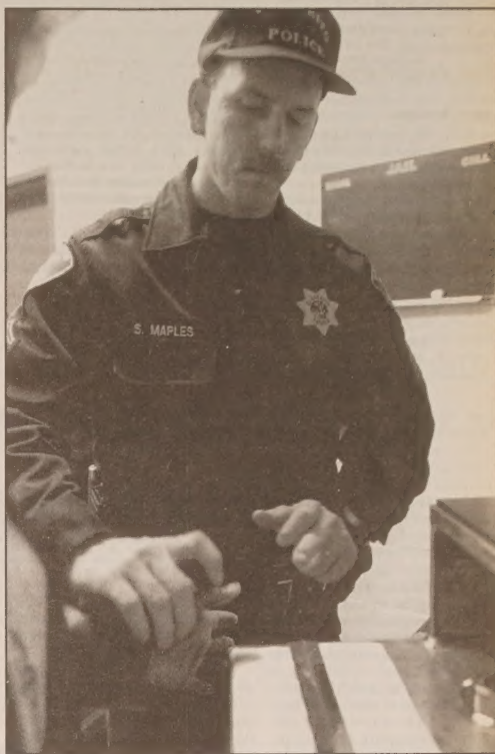
He goes to the scene as back-up as the routine traffic stop becomes an "investigatory stop." The woman driving the car appears intoxicated and after field tests tend to corroborate this, she is handcuffed, placed in the back of a cruiser and taken to El Cerrito's police station for booking. The woman appears to be in her late 60s or early 70s; she is neatly dressed and appears to be somebody's dear grandmother rather than a suspected drunk driver.

At the station a blood alcohol sample is drawn and she is fingerprinted and photographed. Arresting officer Robert De La Campa asks her about any identifying bodily marks, scars or tattoos and other questions.

Maples checks the computer and discovers the woman is driving with a suspended license and has four previous arrests for driving while intoxicated.

Earlier in the shift, a patrolling officer had noted a car without taillights driving in eastern El Cerrito. When he tried to stop the vehicle, it fled and the officer gave chase. But in some hilly areas of El Cerrito, two-way radio contact is poor and when the officer lost contact with dispatch the pursuit was halted. (El Cerrito will soon have a new, more-powerful, police radio system).

A report of bottle throwing at a party causes Maples and two other officers to respond and question a few teenagers as the party breaks up. Another woman is brought in for driving while intoxicated and she sits in



STEVE MASLANKA

Sgt. Shawn Maples fingerprints a drunk driving suspect.

the booking room crying and pleading with the officers. "I think I'm probably sober by now," she says between sobs to no one in particular. Her blood alcohol level is 2.2, her make-up is running and the woman is a mess.

An officer later tells Maples "she's eastward bound," meaning the woman will be taken to county jail in Martinez.

Maples said his four-officer crew writes an average 40 to 50 tickets each month and makes about 10 to 15 arrests each per month. Maples denies any quota system for writing tickets, saying there is no set number that officers are required to write. They give many more warnings than citation, he points out. As watch commander, he is in charge of the shift and serves as backup when requested by another officer.

Although Maples says it's nice to have a trainee with him once in a while, he prefers driving a "solo unit." He jokes that one of the best things about being a cop is the regular pay-

checks and the job security. "There's no shortage of crime," he says with a smile. He works 12-hour shifts — usually long weekends from 5:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. "I like the variety — I have a lot of control over what I do and how I do it," he explained.

Maples said it is a struggle to have "positive contacts" with the public. Much of the time, when cops are called or when red lights are seen in a rear-view mirror, it is a "negative" experience for most people involved. "Even though you're going to help someone — their experience or what they're going through at that time is the most traumatic experience that they've had — their house has been burglarized — their privacy has been violated," he explained.

He said that even if the perpetrator is caught, the outcome is good, but the "whole contact" with the victims "is negative."

He said El Cerrito's officers try to "leave all of our contacts with the most positive impact on people as we can."

Hearing set on EIR for El Cerrito General Plan

Residents will have one more chance to give their views on the future development in El Cerrito at a public hearing on the environmental impact report for the city's General Plan revisions on March 9 at 7 p.m. at the City Council Chamber, 7007 Moeser Lane.

Under guidelines being set, the city is required by state law, to assess El Cerrito, Kensington and unincorporated areas adjacent to the city in East Richmond

The intent of the EIR, city planners say, is to "reduce potential impacts to an insignificant level."

After more than a year of meetings and hearings the city appears ready to "tweak" the current General Plan that has been in place since 1975.

Copies of the initial study are available at City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave., and at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave.

For more information call 215-4330.

Sign up now for Community Center summer jobs

The city of El Cerrito is now accepting job applications summer employment. Positions available include day camp and pool staff.

Ages 15 through 17 years old must have a job permit, and there is volunteer work for those 12 to 14

years old.

Applications may be picked up at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. The center is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For information, call 215-4370.

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Thumbs up for a gentle man

Snappshots

By Martin Snapp

It isn't every day that a news flash comes over your car radio saying that your friend has just died. But that's what happened to me on Saturday.

The reason I'm telling you is that you knew him, too, in a way. He was Gene Siskel, the film critic for the Chicago Tribune and half of the team of Siskel & Ebert.

Gene and I were classmates at Yale (class of '67). Our class has its share of celebrities (composer Maury Yeston, conductor John Mauceri, New York Gov. George Pataki and Clinton defender Lanny Davis, to name a few), but Gene was easily the most famous.

And yet he never thought of himself as The Great Gene Siskel. Let me tell you from painful personal experience, it's all too easy to let celebrity go to your head. But Gene never succumbed to that temptation.

I used to see him whenever he and Ebert came to town on a promotional tour, and I marveled at the

way he always treated everyone — down to the humblest gofer who with infinite kindness and courtesy — I don't know what the opposite of "prima donna" is, but Gene was it.

I'll leave it to others to assess his place in the history of film criticism. (Although it's this layman's guess that he ranks at the very top, right up there with James Agee and Pauline Kael.) But as a human being, the verdict is already in. He was that all-too-rare commodity these days, a gentleman.

All the more remarkable when you consider that he had a childhood straight out of Dickens. He was orphaned before he was 10, and was raised by relatives who packed him off to a military academy. It must have been a terribly lonely life for a

little boy; and, although he never talked about it, I've always thought that was why he lavished such love on his own children, and why he always championed family values in his movie reviews

Since his passing on Saturday, I've been getting e-mails from our classmates, all of whom echo the same feeling: This is like a death in the family.

One of those is Barry Bardo, who was the chairman of our 25th Class Reunion. The highlight of that reunion, the one event everyone was looking forward to, was to be Gene's multimedia presentation on "Scorsese, Spielberg and Lucas."

But just hours before the event, Barry discovered Gene and two assistants still feverishly working on the final technical preparations.

"He seemed surprisingly nervous for someone who makes his living in

front of television cameras," recalls Barry. "I suggested that he had no reason to be nervous, because his classmates and their families were very much rooting for him. And he said, 'I've got to do my best for these guys, because they're the ones who matter most to me.'"

"As the hall was filling with eager audience members, Gene opened his briefcase and pulled out a handful of envelopes. He took the wad of letters, walked over to a group of old friends, and said, 'These are what helped me get through the Army during the Vietnam war.' He wanted his friends to know how much their letters meant to him at the time, and ever since, because he had saved them for more than 20 years."

P.S. Needless to say, Gene's presentation that night was a tour de force: Brilliant, charming, informative and deeply personal.

The week before, he had been a guest on the last week of "The Tonight Show" before Johnny Car-

son's retirement. And the next week, he was due to be a guest on the show again when Jay Leno took over. "But you know what?" he told us. "I don't give a (deleted) what those people think of me. But I care very much about what you guys think of me."

But let's let Gene have the last word. It's a Yale tradition to have everyone write a little essay for the 25th Reunion Yearbook. I'm too embarrassed to tell you what I wrote; it was so full of hubris and self-importance.

But Gene wrote about some precious wisdom he received from his College Master, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author John Hersey. Gene wrote:

"The best part of my Yale education may have been a graduation week lunch I had with Mr. Hersey. He gave me three pieces of advice that I have passed along to thousands

of other students at various points:

"1. Don't do anything for money in America if you do anything money will follow - if you want."

"2. Have more than one company. Don't be trapped into working one company, in one profession, your entire life."

"3. Don't view life as a battle which you can get a perfect score on. Life is problems. Therefore don't be unhappy when you're unhappy. Strive for and appreciate moments of serenity, a much more realistic goal."

"Thank you, Mr. Hersey."

Thank you, Mr. Siskel.

Phone Martin Snapp at (916) 9039 or e-mail him at msnapp@att.net.

'Alice in Wonderland' extraordinary

Multimedia Notes

By Bill Mann

Go Ask Alice: Family entertainment, like good taste and subtlety (to name but two), has all but vanished from network television. But Sunday night's extraordinary "Alice in Wonderland" on NBC is something every member of the family can watch and enjoy. It's also, you should pardon the expression, about as good a head trip as you can take without running afoul of the DEA.

It's like getting to watch "Monty Python" instead of another "Who's the Boss?" The whole family will love it, which doesn't mean it's insipid. Not at all: Here, Martin Short chews up as much scenery playing the Mad Hatter than Jim Carrey did in either "Lucky Ventura" film. Also, when's the last time you saw two hours of clever wordplay on TV? Add to this Lewis Carroll's uniquely British mix of lunacy, nonsense, and silliness and it's a formidable package.

This one's a keeper, one you'll probably want to tape (it airs at 8 p.m. Sunday on KRON) for your permanent video collection. It's the best thing acclaimed exec producer Robert Halmi, Sr. ("Merlin," "The Odyssey") has done yet; his colorful dreamscapes surpass even those in the old Disney cartoon classic. Mi-

randa Richardson is quite funny as the Queen of Hearts. I enjoyed it even though Ms. Ubiquity Whoopi Goldberg (who plays the Cheshire Cat) was in it. Don't miss "Alice."

MULTIMEDIA NOTES: Speaking of playing cards, do you like magic tricks? Then go to <http://www3.mcps.k12.md.us/users/rs/fay/magic/index.html> and pick a card. Any card. Can you figure out how the trick is done? ... "Alice" is almost enough to make you forget the dreary fare the last two nights of sweeps next week: Tuesday's "Opening the Tombs" live "event" on Fox (tut, tut), and B. Walters' heart-to-heart Wednesday on ABC with book promoter M. Lewinsky ... A Hollywood writer pal e-mails this after the famed movie critic's death last week: God to Gene Siskel: "The Greatest Story Ever Told" got two stars? Go to hell! ... Seriously, Siskel, the truest critic of the pair, will be missed, and the too-easily-impressed Roger Ebert should hang it up, TV-wise. It took courage for Siskel to name "Babe: Pig in the City" as last year's Best

Film. I'd certainly put the daring and imaginative sequel on my own 10-best list ...

Former Hills sports columnist Lowell Cohn, now writing for the Santa Rosa Press-Democrat, calls Al Davis, who wants to move the Raiders again, a "serial desecrator of cities." Nice turn of phrase. Cohn tells a revealing story that took place after one game last season. The week before, Davis had scolded the sportswriter, saying Cohn "hadn't been nice to him." The next week, Cohn says, "Al said he wanted me to meet someone. It was a man named Marty, who was apparently Barbara Streisand's agent," writes Cohn, who, like Marty and Davis, is a Brooklyn native. But after only a minute of small talk with Marty, Cohn writes, Davis said "Lowell has to go write a column." "No, it's OK, Al. I have a few minutes to talk to Marty," Cohn says he replied. The columnist says at this point Davis said, "Lowell has to go." Cohn says the Raider boss "put his hands on my shoulders and actually pushed me away." Why this

boorish behavior? Cohn: "I think it was a revealing episode. I think Davis was saying, 'If you're nice to me, I can let you hang around interesting people.' But because you're not nice, I'll merely give you a glimpse of what you're missing." Cohn concludes: "A man who treats people and cities as badly as he does has no right to complain about a little criticism." Pride without poise - or class.

Heckle THIS: You can forgive Michael Krasny, host of KQED-FM's cerebral "Forum," if he scents the crowd up at Robnett Park (motto: "A Great Place To Live If You're Not Allergic to Stucco") when he gives the commencement address at Sonoma State U. later this spring. You may recall the last time Krasny addressed graduates, four years ago at Redwood High School in Marin, he was heckled. Yes, heckled. By KSFO Radio's abrasive right-wing pit bull Michael Savage. (Savage admitted later that his own daughter, who was graduating, was embarrassed by his outburst). Krasny now calls the bizarre episode "a case of oratorical penis envy." ... El Cerrito reader Steve Marinucci swears that a snooty San Francisco waiter in one of those trendy eateries actually told

his dining party the other day, "Try the squid in its own ink." My rule of thumb: If a place has "Grill" in its title, you can probably count on large bills and small portions. And if "Risortorante" appears in the place's name, count on it ... By the way, if a waiter ever introduces himself by saying, "I'm Chad, and I'll be your waiter today," try Jay Leno's snappy comeback: "I'm Jay, and I'll be your customer today." ...

A never-aired TV episode has become almost as famous in recent weeks as the dreadful-sounding, never-released movie, "The Day the Clown Cried," the infamous film Jerry Lewis starred in and bankrolled. (Those who have seen "Clown," set in a Nazi death camp, say it's quite possibly the worst movie ever made). The "Jerry Springer" episode was called - I'm not making this up - "I Married a Horse," and in it, "Mark" talked of his love for "Pixal," who was "horse-broken." Those who have seen the banned episode say Springer introduces it (with a straight face, of course): "Today, we have a love story ... 'Wilburrr ... The classy Jane Riley is administrative assistant to KCBS Radio boss Frank Oxarart. But she's also

a broadcasting pioneer, thought-provoking 'Bay Woman' is the longest-running radio show - it started in 'Woman' airs at 3:35 Saturdays, and is repeated Sundays at 12:52 a.m. ...

Finally today, I'd never seen PBS's "Teletubbies" (KQED) weekdays at 9:30) until the furor over Rev. Jerry Falwell's bizarre charges that the "Tubby" was gay. (Among things, Revler can't tell the difference between purple and lavender. I hadn't seen the show, so I didn't know. It's a sweet program, perfect for toddlers. Lots of simple, lots of wet stuff like bubble, plenty of giggling. If my kids pre-schoolers, I wouldn't hesitate to let them watch. The Berkeley council (led by Councilwoman Armstrong) has expressed sympathy with Tinky over Falwell's bleatings. I liked the Letter Editor in Cohn's Santa Rosa issue this week about the absurdity of the affair. Tinky, Jerry Falwell, tongue-in-cheek letter said, "I should be more concerned that only a stage name. His real name is Tinky Winkenstein."

Tickets available for Family Day at Symphony

Get close yourself and your kids close to the music and get tickets now for "Family Day at the Symphony" in Richmond, with the Oakland East Bay Symphony on March 28 at the Richmond Convention Center.

The OEBS will be joined by 50 student string musicians from Alameda and Contra Costa County schools playing side-by-side with the symphony musicians. Student performers will include 5th graders Laurel Brown and Lindsey Fuller from Harding Elementary and Annaliese La Force from Kensington Hilltop and Lauren McNulty from Kensington Hilltop.

Children of all ages, from babies-in-arms on up, are welcome. Family Day provides an affordable (\$2 children, \$8 adults) way to introduce the whole family to the joys of live orchestra music, as well as the opportunity to meet the musicians and conductor Michael Morgan.


In addition to being a low-cost cultural opportunity for the wider community, the symphony appearance is an educational opportunity, as well.

The West Contra Costa Education Fund is not only sponsoring the concert, but a related series of in-school performances by OEBS musicians.

Conductor Morgan will accompany the musicians to many of the school sites, where budding musicians and the school population at-large will see first-hand who makes the music and how. The Ed. Fund is also preparing a narrated tape of the music that will be played at Family Day that will be available at no charge to all district teachers who want to familiarize their students with the pieces in the March 28 performance.

FAMILY DAY

Sunday, March 28, 2 p.m., Richmond Convention Center. Tickets: \$2 children, \$8 adults. Order by phone, 620-6792; or purchase in person, third floor Richmond City Hall, 2600 Barrett Ave.



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Mar. 4 - "Creation from a Native American Viewpoint" with Otto Parrish, member of the Kashaya band of the Pomo tribe.

Mar. 11 - "Celtic Spirituality, everyday splendor," with Rev. Dr. Arthur G. Holder, Professor of Christian Spirituality, Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley

Mar. 18 - "Contemporary Responses by the Faith Community," with Rev. Sally Bingham, chair, Episcopal Diocese of California, Commission for the Environment and Keith Warner, OFM, Franciscan Friar, St. Anthony Foundation.

Mar. 25 - "Weaving the Threads Together," An evening of discussion drawing together ideas from previous evenings.

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Calendar

Submissions to Goings on About Town must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

Classes

Ongoing

Let's Swing and Jitterbug; 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate; four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley; Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes.

Figure Drawing; Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. through March 17; Carol Brighton, instructor; Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut St. in Live Oak Park; 644-6893; \$125.

Vista College
Through May 24; "American Fiction: 1945 to the Present" with Dr. Yehudit Goldfarb; \$36

All classes located on the UC-Berkeley campus; 841-8860.
Ongoing
YWCA Health and Community Education; drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370; \$8 - \$10.

Community

North Berkeley Senior Center
Feb. 25; 9 a.m.; drop-in bridge; 3 p.m.; solving housing problems with the Law Center

1901 Hearst Ave.; 644-6107.
Kensington 55+ Activity Center
Feb. 25; 11 a.m.; health, "Massage Therapy" with Bertha Reichbach

Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., 526-9146 for weekly schedule or information.

Albany Adult School, March 1 and 8, Albany High, Rm. 54, 655 Keyroute, 6:45 - 9:15 p.m. Work that involves repetitive movements (computer, cashing, etc.) can lead to pain in wrists, hands, arms and/or neck. Learn gentle movements, breathing exercises to relieve pain restore circulation and open nerve pathways for various forms of RSI. Bring mat and pillow to class. re-register: 559-6580. Fee \$15.

Ongoing

"Work Buddies"; volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

Psychic Healing clinic; 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Mondays; free clinic at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief; 1-800-642-9355.

SMART project; the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs.

Stroke Support Group for Stroke survivors, their families and friends. No ad-

vance reservations required. Meets the first Tuesday of each month 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., Maffly Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way.

The Women's Cancer Resource Center Friends and Family Support Group offers a group for emotional support for family and friends of women with cancer every 1st and 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Call 255-0891 before your first meeting. WCRC Grief Group meets Tuesdays, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for 8 weekly sessions. Call 548-9272 or 649-9618. Stress Reduction / Relaxation Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All groups meet at 3023 Shattuck.

New Beginnings - a chemical dependency treatment program at Doctors Medical Center in Pinole - offers community support group information, free assessments, education and counselors who can talk about drug and alcohol dependency treatment and prevention. Call 724-1520 for information.

The Edible Schoolyard, an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King middle school, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1335 for information.

English-in-Action lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversation partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour a week. YWCA, at Berkeley, Call 843-9716.

Women's Daytime Drop-In Center in Berkeley; serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 466-5663.

Exhibits

Art in the Loft; through March 14; hand-blown glass, marbles, vases and goblets by Christopher Roscoe and Arturo Ramos, functional art, jewelry and boxes by Susan Emerson; watercolors and hand-made cards by Lucia Emerson; 2599 Eighth St., #41, Berkeley; 848-7952.

Ongoing

"All over the Place" and "Vessels of Comfort: The Cloth Figure in Human Form"; through March 2; Bobbi Finley's quilts and Jesse Chandler's dolls on display at New Pieces, 1597 Solano Ave., Berkeley; 527-6779.

BACA Members' Showcase; Wednesdays through Sundays, noon to 5 p.m.; through Feb. 21; over 200 regional and national artists; 1275 Walnut St.; 644-6893.

Ongoing

"Art-On-Site"; Wednesdays 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. through March 24; eight-week slide-lecture and field trip series; Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut St.; 527-2640.

New Pieces Gallery, 1597 Solano Ave. Berkeley, presents its list of artists for the year 1999. The gallery exhibits quilts and soft cloth sculptures and dolls exclusively and is open during store business hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. through 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Not open major holidays. 527-6779

Literary Events

Ongoing
"Strong Women: Writers and Heroes of American Literature"; 1:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. every Thursday; free course in the Berkeley Adult School Older Adults Program; Helen Rippler Wheeler, instructor; North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst, corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way; 549-2970 after 9 a.m.

Meetings

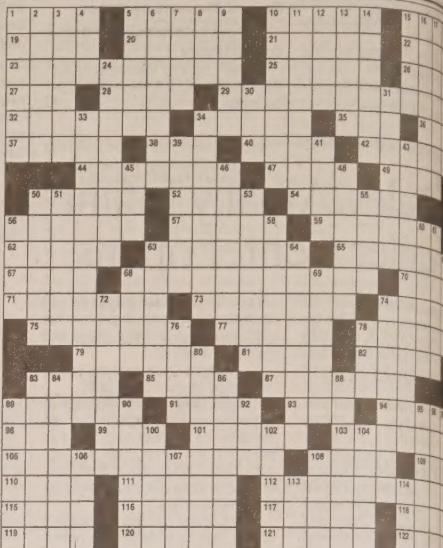
Ongoing

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE

"OFF" BROADWAY

BY FRED FISCO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS	44 Series of 30 requiems, to Roman Catholics	87 Verbatim	4 Decathlete O'Brien
1 Not much	47 After-dinner selection	89 Torments	5 Snicker
5 Indy 500 data	49 Dodge	91 Can in Canterbury	6 Affixes, in a way
10 Great man?	50 Tiny cars' paths	93 Attendance fig.	7 Dining table sights
15 Like some track meets	52 Impressionist	94 Oater sound effects	8 Season abroad
19 Coney Island's "Park"	54 Comedienne Ullman	99 Go out	9 Kind of panel
20 Sister of Euterpe	56 Sawfish kin	101 Baseball Hall-of-Famer Bobby	10 "Don't go away!"
21 Lake that feeds the Truckee River	57 James Dean type	103 Dupe	11 Town south of Elizabeth, N.J.
22 "She Believes" (Kenny Rogers song)	59 Fedora features	105 Broadway musical about a blown putt?	12 Sounds before "I've got it!"
23 Rodgers musical about a \$1,000-a-night vacation?	62 Rector's income	108 [sigh]	13 "With Love"
25 Stood	63 Prepares to paint	109 Bit of financial planning: Abbr.	14 Acne sufferer, most likely
26 E-4's, E-5's et al.	65 Musical intervals	110 It's sold in bars	15 Surfboard flaw
27 Winner of eight Norris Trophies	67 "...baked in"	111 Smash to smithereens	16 Straights out
28 Poetic periods	68 Broadway musical about three guys using the same pickup routine at a bar?	112 Broadway musical about Judge Judy?	17 Pseudopod formers
29 Broadway musical about a wrestling free-for-all?	70 Church section	115 Actor Calhoun	18 Let up
32 File box filler	71 Some pots and pans	116 Trixie's pal, in '50's TV	24 Involuntary exile
34 "rubber (shoe material)"	73 London's "Hill Gate"	117 Seemingly forever	30 Japanese computer giant
35 Electrical unit	74 Stranger	118 All-inclusive	31 Give the evil eye to
36 "How 'dan" Sure" (1967 hit)	75 Factory machinery	119 Figure (out)	33 Broadway musical about a duffer and his new driver?
37 Prefix with centric	77 Colorful fish	120 Checks out	50 "Never mind!"
38 "Kosh B'Gosh (kids' clothing line)"	78 Physicist Angstrom	121 What a junker may be good for	68 Coloratura's piece
40 Cheese base	79 Person on a dais	122 "vale (farewell)"	69 Some blowups
42 Certain sweater	81 Retainer	DOWN	72 "So soon?"
	82 Glittery stone	1 Noted 1969 Harvard grad	55 E.R. cry
	83 Assured of success	2 Gun location	58 Mr. Clean alternative
	85 Kind of appeal	3 Old-style revolutionary	60 Gotten out of
			61 Forbidding



45 Non-P.C. suffix	63 Sachet emanations	83 Title girl in a Ricky Nelson hit	97 "Came New Carrot" anchor
46 Onetime Chrysler model	64 More sinuous	84 Contract inkers, say	100 African veldt
48 Unisex garment	66 Sun. talks	86 Whole bunches	102 Amend, as a itinerary
50 "Never mind!"	68 Coloratura's piece	88 Acid, at times	104 Wacky
51 Bodega patron	69 Some blowups	89 Pyle player	106 Some scales
53 Ostensible	72 "So soon?"	90 Accessory pin: Var.	107 Inflammation ending
55 Singer Winans	74 "The Zoo Story," e.g.	92 Natural necklace	108 Get on—effort
56 E.R. cry	76 Signal to leave	95 Relaxant	113 Roll-call roll
58 Mr. Clean alternative	78 Cabinet dept.	96 It's sometimes begged	114 Big pouch
60 Gotten out of	80 Motocross, e.g.		
61 Forbidding			

Higher Alignment; 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Mondays; fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships; Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; (415) 461-5337; \$20.

Alta Bays Support Groups - Arthritis Support Group meets the second Tuesday of every month; 1 - 2:30 p.m.; 204-4503. Call for additional special events.
Overeaters Anonymous, a 12 step program providing free aid for those with eating problems, meets in Berkeley every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (newcomers at 8 a.m.) at St. John's Church, 2727 College Ave. and in Richmond every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Hospital, 901 Nevin (take Elevator C to the third floor). For further information, call 273-9292.

TOPS; 9:30 a.m., Mondays; Take Pounds Off Sensibly, Albany Chapter meets at 980 Stannage St. at Marin; Ernie, 233-2948 or Karen, 525-6858.

Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters; meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call 643-7645.

Toastmasters; noon - 1 p.m. Tuesdays;

stand up and say what you mean; practice with the toastmasters; 700 Heinz Ave., Berkeley; 863-6708.

State Health Toastmasters Club meets every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursday of the month from 12:10 p.m. to 1:10 p.m. at the State Health building at 2151 Berkeley Way, 649-7750.

Alta Bays Rehabilitation Center and East Bay Neurology sponsors a free monthly stroke support group. No advance reservations are required, drop-in anytime. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium on Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley. Details: 204-4503.

The March meeting of the West Contra Costa Division 58 of the California Retired Teachers Association will be held at St. Luke's Methodist Church, 32nd and Barrett Ave. Richmond. A program for Woman's history month, will follow the noon luncheon. For reservations call 234-3046.

Music

Feb. 26

The UC-Berkeley Department of Music presents the University Chorus and Orchestra at 8 p.m. in Hertz Hall. The program is conducted by music director David Milnes and features Mozart's *Idomeneo*. Tickets \$8 general, \$2 UC-Berkeley students, \$6 students, seniors staff and faculty. 642-9988.

The Lenten Organ Recital Series continues at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, 2407 Dana St. with organist John R. S. Walko, Cesar Franck: *Trois Chorals*. Concert begins at 7 p.m. Admission is free. Details: 848-6242.

Feb. 27

The Kensington Symphony Orchestra presents KSO Young Soloist Competition Winner: Robert Litton, percussionist performing Paul Creston, Bach and Schubert at 8 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 770 Sonoma St., Richmond. Adults \$10, \$8 seniors/children under 12 free. Purchase tickets at the door. For information: 525-4796.

Feb. 28

The Church of St. David of Wales, 5641 Esmond Ave., presents its Festive Choir performing Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* in

the liturgical setting of Stations of the Cross. The performance begins at 7 p.m. The program is free. Details: 227-1212.

Outdoors

REI Berkeley

Feb. 25; "Africa on Safari"; 7 p.m.; shares highlights from his new guide book, "Adventuring in Southern Africa" 1338 San Pablo Ave.; 527-4140.

Religion

Feb. 28;

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 10:30 a.m. The Soul in phrase, with the Rev. Clara L. Pinnerberger. Children's program and childcare. 1924 Cedar Ave. 841-4800.

Ongoing

East Bay Regional Parks Botanical Garden Tilden Park, presents regular seven days a week. Week days 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and Sunday 2 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Call 841-8732. For a schedule of coming classes call 925-820-1020.

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Style Bath & Kitchen is located at 134 98th Ave., Oakland, 510-638-8818. New Century Marble & Granite is located at 25 Hegenberger Pl., Oakland, 510-632-3788.

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Don't Remove Trees That Invade Sewers

If you're considering removing a tree because it regularly invades your sewer or drain line - please don't! Trees are an important part of our urban ecosystem and should be retained as much as possible. There is a new service available to eliminate chronic sewer and drain root problems called Sewer Root Foaming.

This service, once only available to city sewer departments, is now available to the public. The process involves injecting a special EPA approved foam, under pressure, into the sewer clean-out. This foam fills the entire pipe, squeezing into cracks, adhering to and destroying roots inside and outside the pipe. The foam also contains root growth inhibitors which fill cracks and separated pipe joints, preventing future regrowth for three or more years. The foam is not systemic and will not effect the health of the tree.

Flowering Trees Arrive

Signs of spring come early to the Bay Area. Every February our flowering trees burst forth with blossoms of vibrant color in seeming defiance of the still threatening winter storms.

Almost all of these flowering trees share a common characteristic. They all blossom on new wood. The twig and branches that grew the previous year all carry buds that will flower the following year. Therefore, it is important to prune these trees after they blossom. A pruning in spring will create an abundance of new shoots, which will be laden with flowering buds, thus causing an even greater show of blossoms the next season.

A partial list of flowering trees that blossom on new wood includes: Flowering Magnolias, Plums, Pears, Hawthorns, and Cherries; Camellias, Rhododendrons, Azaleas and various flowering shrubs; and Hawthorn, Lilac, Locust and all Citrus.

If you have questions regarding any aspect of your trees or landscape, please call certified arborist Gregg Huddleston from Specialized Arbor Works at (510) 530-8346.

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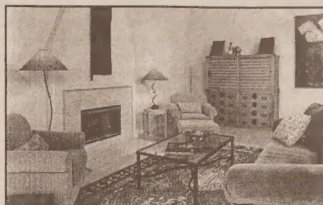


PHOTO BY KENNETH RICE

Winterizing Your Home

So far we've had a fairly dry winter but here are some things you can do to protect your home from the cold and rain:

1. **Clean Gutters, Downspouts and Underground Drains** - most rain water leaks are caused by clogged gutters or downspouts. Be sure underground drains are clear of clogs.
2. **Service Sump Pumps** - service annually to avoid flooding in basements.

3. **Caulk and Weatherstrip Doors and Windows** - this will help keep the heat in and save you money on your electric bill.
4. **Change Furnace Filters** - this helps the furnace operate more efficiently and eliminates the spread of the dust particles that have built up from last winter.

5. **Seal Exterior Cracks** - rain and cold air can get through the cracks making your home damp and cold.

Wild Bird Alert

Anna's Hummingbirds are year-round residents of the Bay Area. Now is a great time to start feeding them, while the winter keeps their natural food sources low.



Grout Doctor

Grout Doctor started in Oakland in January of 1993 as a one-man operation owned and operated by Charles Pellicci IV. Part of a national franchise, Grout Doctor provided a well-needed service at an affordable price - re-furnishing tile installations by re-grouting, cleaning, sealing and caulking instead of replacing.

As the business grew, Charles took a partner, his best friend Marcus Chatman (quality control), his mother Barbara Pellicci (office manager) and Richardo Mello (grout technician). In 1998, the franchise agreement ended and Grout Doctor became the Grout Doctor of Oakland, an independently owned and operated business committed to prompt, reliable, affordable service. Most jobs run between \$125.00 and \$350.00.

Barry Sez! Barry Lehrman, East Bay Nursery

Orchids On My Mind

With the Pacific Orchid Exposition coming up this weekend, February 26-28, in San Francisco, my thoughts naturally turn to these kings and queens of flowers. Everybody has a fear of orchids, usually based on the fact that in many other places than the Bay Area, specialized growing conditions mean greenhouses, humidifiers, fans, cooling devices, and other expensive doodads. Around here, in any partly sunny, frost free spot in the garden or on a patio mini, semi mini, or Standard Cymbidiums can be grown. The same conditions apply for such exotic orchids as Masdevallia, Odontoglossum, and Dysis.

Indoors, if you can grow African Violets, Phalaenopsis (Moth Orchid), Oncidium (bright yellow or pink Dancing Ladies), or Dendrobium, orchids can be grown. With a little more light Cattleya (corsages), and Brassia (Spider Orchid) are fine with the same temperatures you are comfortable with. In a slightly darker spot (north windows), Paphiopedalum (Lady Slipper), and Miltonia (Pansy Orchid) do fine.

Most orchids bloom once a year, but over an extended period of time, up to several months. Modern growers are breeding for smaller plant size to suit window sills, ease of culture, and repeat bloom.

P.S. We live in a Mediterranean climate and should take advantage of it. Mediterranean plants not only need less

water, they protect our environment by preventing toxic runoff. Since even manures, organic though they may be, pollute, the less we use, the cleaner the bay. The flowers these plants produce throughout the year are just a side benefit.

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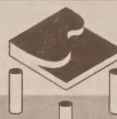
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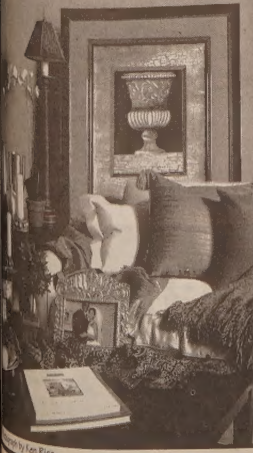
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Chamber directors oppose special gun tax

El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce

By Sewall Glinternick

Claiming it is "unnecessary," "serves little purpose," and "could potentially do great harm to the business community," the El Cerrito Chamber Board of Directors voted unanimously to oppose a proposed special 3 percent tax on all guns and ammunition sold within the city. While declaring that "the Board of Directors feels that restraints should be placed on the availability of certain firearms" the Chamber's ruling body rejected the idea of imposing the special tax in a strongly worded resolution that they ordered sent to every member of the El Cerrito City Council.

"The reason given for this tax" the resolution points out, "is that it is needed to combat gun violence." In rejecting this argument, the directors said they believe the tax will do little: if anything: to combat this violence. "While enactment of this tax might in some small way enhance El Cerrito's image as a 'liberal' city, the Chamber board feels it would be of little or no value in combating the crime problem and its effects on society," the resolution declares. "Crime and its economic consequences is not just a local, county or state problem, it is a national problem that will not be solved by scattered cities imposing varying amounts of special taxes on the legal sale of guns and ammunition." The board also rejected the argument that it is fair to make the people who sell guns in a legal fashion pay the costs to society generated by criminals who use guns for illegal purposes. "If we accept this idea," the board warned, "we are headed down a very slippery slope." Careless drivers cause accidents. Those who abuse the use

of liquor create an economic burden on the rest of society. Fat causes cholesterol build-up which, in turn causes strokes and heart attacks. If you accept (this) logic, will you then impose a special tax on those who sell new and used cars in El Cerrito, or on our local liquor stores and bars, or on any grocery store that sells or any restaurant that serves food with a high fat content? "Of course you wouldn't, because the idea is ridiculous." If a 3 percent tax were added to guns and ammunition sold in El Cerrito, Chamber leaders pointed out, a number of the local gun dealers' present customers would head for neighboring cities where they could avoid paying this added amount. "At best," the directors concluded, "this legislation would lower sales here right along with the sales tax revenue. At worst, it could impact business so severely that one or more of our gun dealers — move his operation to a more business-free neighboring city — thus depriving El Cerrito of its business license fee and its entire sales tax revenue, both of which are badly needed if we are to prevent having to ask people here to pay even more for needed city services."

Membership grows

Three more local firms — Tobacco Outlet, Leslie Insurance Services and El Cerrito Plaza Travel — have added their names to the El Cerrito Chamber's membership list.

Located in Peppermint Plaza, 10164 San Pablo Ave., Tobacco Outlet will open for business March 1 with a grand opening celebration set for Saturday, March 6. Owned and operated by Rose Ma, the new business will feature cigars, cigarettes, tobacco and smoke accessories. Leslie Insurance Services recently opened an office 10891 San Pablo Ave. The firm, headed by broker Yvonne Leslie, offers a full line of auto, home, life and business insurance. Owned and operated by Raj Patel, El Cerrito Plaza Travel is headquartered at 500 El Cerrito Plaza. The well-known travel agency is currently stirring the interest of vacationers by offering a free trip for two to Maui both this month and again in March. Meanwhile, the El Cerrito Chamber is happy to note that 18 more individuals and firms currently holding membership have recently shown their support by reinvesting. Included in this group are: John Hoagland DPM, Norge Cleaners, Target Stores, Fortune Paging and Gifts, Doctors Medical Center, City of El Cerrito, Gary Pokorny, Berndt Landscaping, ACM Enterprises, Full Circle Travel, Contra Costa County Social Services, Ball Chiropractic, McDonald's of El Cerrito, Travelodge, V.G. White Jewelers, California Federal Bank and Margie Myers.

Next mixer scheduled

The next El Cerrito Chamber Mixer is 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on

Wednesday, March 24, in the newly-opened offices of Cardservice International at 517 El Cerrito Plaza.

Owned and operated by Mela Chua, Cardservice International specializes in transaction processing for local business. The mixer is open to all Chamber members and their guests.

Marge Collins joins Board

Former mayor Marge Collins has been named to fill a vacancy on the El Cerrito Chamber Board of Directors. Collins was selected to serve out the unexpired term of director Gary Wong, who stepped down from the Board due to the pressure of outside business.

Long active in a variety of civic affairs, Collins has served the Chamber for a number of years — helping out wherever needed. In the mid-'70s, she was president of the El Cerrito Women's Division of the Chamber, and since then has made a record number of appearances as mistress of ceremonies and installing officer for the Chamber. Currently she is serving as facilitator for talks aimed at improving communication between the business community and the city.

She is former president and current legislative chair and vice president of the Kensington-El Cerrito Republican Women's Club, past president of Soroptimist International of El Cerrito, and a member of the Contra Costa Civic Theater Board of Directors.

Collins served on the City Council from 1978 to 1982, and was mayor in 1980. Presently she is recording secretary of Rotary's Inner Wheel group in El Cerrito, and is a trustee of the Inner Wheel Foundation. An

active member of Mira Vista Golf and County Club, the Chamber's newest Board member has published a book on the history of the local golf facility.

Principal For a Day

Six El Cerrito Chamber Of members will have the unique opportunity to follow the heads of local schools through their workday on March 17. Chamber volunteers will be participating in the West Contra Costa Unified School District's observance of the national "Principal For-A-Day" program.

Local volunteers are being sought to serve as Principal For A Day at Portola Middle School as well as Harding, Castro, Fairmount, Madera and Kensington elementary schools. Those interested in participating in this program may arrange to do so by contacting the Chamber at 233-7040.

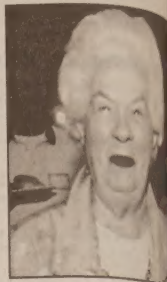
Mail those postcards

Chamber members interested in advertising in the organization's new Business Directory and Shopping Guide are being urged to immediately mail the postcard included with the notice sent out recently.

The El Cerrito Chamber has contracted with Courtland Publishing Company for production, ad sales and printing of a new 8-inch by 11-inch directory. To obtain the best position for your ad, early response by postcard is important, a Courtland spokesman said.

Wins speakers contest

El Cerrito High School student Erica Jones took first prize in the recent Student Speakers Contest held by the local Lions Club, an As-



LOCAL CIVIC leader Marge Collins named to the El Cerrito Chamber board of directors.

sociate Member of the Chamber. Competing with Jones, who now represent the El Cerrito Club at the area finals in March, were fellow ECHS students Jagoda and Sheryl Tsai. Each on the selected topic: "Climate Change: How Far Should Science Go?"

Chamber expands coverage

The El Cerrito Chamber joined with seven other Chambers in the West County Area program to expand the coverage of local business news. The Chamber will be among the contributing material for a new "West County Business Today" newsletter, which will be printed in newspaper form and distributed to all eight Chambers as well as to County Times subscribers. County Business Today is published every other month; the first issue scheduled to come out on Friday, Feb. 26.

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Call for change in budget presentation

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — After studying the budgets and financial practices of several neighboring cities, a subcommittee of the Committee of the Whole recommended last week that the city change the way it prepares and presents its budget. There were 18 recommended changes, including general, specific content and departmental suggestions. The Committee of the Whole modified some recommendations, prioritized the list and then voted overwhelmingly to adopt it. The wording will be finalized and then the recommendations forwarded to the City Council for discussion and action.

"No one thinks we would get it done yesterday — this is going to require, of course, a gradual adoption," George Amberg said after introducing the budget recommendations to the general committee.

He said that budget clarity and the biennial budget recommendation were top priorities. He said the budget document should be "easy to understand" so that people can see "where the money comes from and where it goes."

The budget comparison subcommittee's number one "general recommendation" is that El Cerrito

"No one thinks we would get it done yesterday — this is going to require, of course, a gradual adoption."

— George Amberg

"employ a two-year budget document adopted annually." They said this would allow for a "long-term focus," minimize staff preparation time and allow time to focus on program development in the second year of the cycle. The cities of Berkeley, Alameda, Albany and Emeryville already use the biennial system, the subcommittee reported.

It was also recommended that the budget "provide a detailed section on policies, including debt and reserve funds," with any changes noted. The budget should include "a description and explanation of local government revenue sources" and all money transfers should be explained and understandable.

The matter of transfers was discussed at length. Committee members decided that specific destinations and sources of transfers should be explained and made clear. Footnotes and other means would be used on the appropriate page. "We want to eliminate transfers wherever possible" explained Financial Review Team Chairman Steve Magyary. He urged that whenever this is not possible "specific explanations of sources and destinations" should be made. Magyary described transfers as an unnecessary "accounting methodology" and said that they "artificially make things look funny."

Under "specific content recommendations," the subcommittee urged that a "baseline expenditure plan" be used. This model would contain "revenue projections minus an expenditure baseline," which would be used to calculate available resources. "Various spending strategies can then be shown, giving decision makers the ability to choose priorities among different options," the subcommittee reported. Committee member Linda Blum said the budget document itself should be a "very good" communication tool and should be attractive and easy to read and this seemed to be an underlying goal of the subcommittee.

Honda

FROM PAGE A1

"The goal of Honda of El Cerrito is to stay in El Cerrito and be a viable part of the community," Nick said.

It is also estimated that a new and improved Food Bowl site would also bring in an additional \$43,000 a year to the Redevelopment Agency because of increased property taxes.

Agency member Mark Friedman said he is glad the dealership will not become "El Sobrante Honda," but later added "we can't write a blank check." Friedman told Nick he was "not that happy about being forced to pay money for something that you may or may not have done anyway." He praised El Cerrito Honda and its commitment to the community, but said the owners of the property have "never been particularly cooperative with anything that we've tried to do in that area."

Friedman said he had a problem with using agency money to help demolish the Food Bowl building and enhance the property. The old Food Bowl site and the nearby property where the International House of Pancakes restaurant used to operate are owned by the Oshima family.

Both businesses are now closed and the buildings are vacant with plywood bolted over the storefront windows. Weeds, broken glass, discarded trash and sofas can be seen on the properties. El Cerrito Honda negotiated with the owners for several months and a lease agreement has been reached.

"I think that we should, when we



THE BACK of Food Bowl on San Pablo Avenue in El Cerrito has markings of an abandoned building.

negotiate, not just negotiate with you, but negotiate with the Oshimas to have them take care of their own property that will be enhanced through this process," Friedman told Nick at the meeting. Friedman said there needs to be a cap on such things as the demolition costs.

The preliminary estimate to demolish the Food Bowl and IHOP buildings is \$70,000; utility undergrounding is given a "very preliminary estimate" of \$130,000. Street improvements cost estimates are not known at present and if an environmental impact report is required, it is expected to cost between

\$30,000 and \$50,000. The undergrounding costs may be covered by a special PG&E program, but is unknown at present whether the project will qualify. It would be the project if the northern end of Knott Avenue is vacated and solidated as part of the site plan. The site plan for the new ship will be available next week. "We all want to try to get it together," said Redevelopment Chairman Jane Barthelemy. "We like the name 'El Cerrito Honda' being seen from the way, she added. "We like to know we're here."

Goals

FROM PAGE A1

\$1.7 million) for other purposes without informing the city or any other agency of the plan."

Currently, Albany is negotiating with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to reach an agreement similar to one made with Catellus Development Corporation. That firm recently performed soil remediation at the plateau, an area located directly north of Golden Gate Fields. After completing the project, Catellus sold the property to the East Bay Regional Park District.

Mayor Peggy Thomsen announced she would be meeting with State Assemblywoman Dion Aroner to discuss efforts to reclaim the \$1.7 million. Such funds are essential to the city's plans to remediate the bulb and sell the property to EBRPD for development into a shoreline park.

Marris also suggested the city needs to craft a humane solution to relocating residents of the bulb, as-

serting the homeless issue is one that affects the entire Bay Area and must be addressed by the area as a whole. Fields said staff and the council has discussed the need to identify land use issues at the landfill.

Cleveland Avenue

The council also discussed its goal of developing a five-year capital improvement program for the Cleveland Avenue/Eastshore Highway redevelopment project, including an attempt to "market" the area for potential developers. Fields said work on the project is contingent upon the outcome of a lawsuit brought against the city by a merchant in the area opposed to the plan.

Council members made interim suggestions regarding the off-ramp from Interstate 580 south, which they said creates confusion for motorists when they enter the loop near the Buchanan Street overpass.

Councilman Ed McManus suggested erecting signs such as those he'd seen in Paris that use icons to direct motorists to points of interest, including City Hall, the library/com-

munity center and the business district. Thompson said San Francisco also employs such signage and agreed such an approach might be a simple way to direct traffic.

Council and staff also discussed their goal of completing the engineering and "streetscape" design for Phase II of the Solano Avenue Project before the end of the year. According to Fields, Albany hopes to work with the City of Berkeley on the project, including the development of design plans, engineering and funding.

Street corner floods

Longtime Albany resident and community activist Dario Meniketti said the city needs to do something about flooding that occurs on the corner of San Pablo and Marin avenues. When it rains he said "There is no easy way to cross the street there."

Fields agreed and said there is a storm drain break at that location, a problem linked to the lack of a sewer drain system on state highways.

The council will resume their usual Monday meeting time March 1.

Signals

FROM PAGE A1

cess for the disabled.

"People definitely wanted audible signals, but we knew we didn't have enough money to do the whole city," Abelson explained later.

The non-profit, El Cerrito-based organization determined which city intersections most needed the audible signals and donated \$3,774 for the project. Originally just three intersections were funded for the signals, but after a pedestrian was hit by a car at Potrero and San Pablo avenues, a fourth signal was added.

In the past, Albany/El Cerrito Access has worked to place such equipment as audible scanners and enlargers in the El Cerrito and Albany libraries.

Revamp

FROM PAGE A1

gestion on I-80."

La Force said the project was going to move forward to accommodate "the maximum traffic flow of automobiles along San Pablo Avenue" regardless of whether or not there are local concerns about economic or pedestrian issues.

Mayor Gina Brusatori pointed out that the consultants have not talked with Chamber of Commerce representatives "to weigh in on whether or not businesses on San Pablo Avenue care whether or not cars can go from one end of El Cerrito to the other in seven minutes."

The consultants have talked with Caltrans, county transportation authorities and various city staff mem-

bers, but it appears the community has indeed not been part of the process thus far.

Funding construction of the Costa County has come from grants. The Alameda County Transportation Agency and Contra Costa Transportation Authority are providing funds for consultant services.

San Pablo Avenue is a state highway — State Route 94 — and the city of El Cerrito funds have been located for the project. A grant application has been submitted to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for more advanced items in the project.

In a later talk, Chamber of Commerce Manager Sewall said the chamber board has taken an official position "smart corridor" efforts.

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SPORTS

Hills Newspapers

February 25, 1999

Section B

Basketball Albany girls finish out season with loss [B2]

Basketball St. Mary's girls aiming for Powerhouse finals [B3]

Berkeley takes down Amador

Jackets secure EBAL title

By Mike McGreehan

Baseball great Yogi Berra could have best described Friday's East Bay Athletic League girls basketball game between Berkeley and Amador Valley high schools with one of his now-famous malapropisms: "It ain't over 'til it's over."

OK, so maybe some of the younger fans who packed Amador Valley's gym in Pleasanton had never before heard that adage. But they surely understood its meaning by the time the game ended.

That's because Berkeley opened a 19-point lead in the third quarter, cooled down, survived a heady comeback effort by the Dons and emerged with a 58-52 win to remain unbeaten in league play.

"We started making some bad passes and we fouled them too much," said Berkeley coach Gene Nakamura. "We eked out a victory but we could have been better."

Amador Valley (10-2 EBAL, 22-2 overall) hoped to gain revenge against the Yellowjackets after getting waxed 71-48 last month in Berkeley. That didn't happen, but the Dons might have regained at least some measure of respectability with their effort.

Both teams struggled early with missed passes. But Amador Valley was simply ice-cold from the floor and even colder from the free-throw line, which helped Berkeley open a 15-6 lead by the end of the first quarter.

The Yellowjackets (12-0, 19-5) went ahead 23-11 in the second quarter before going into a funk. Suddenly, Berkeley turnovers translated into four unanswered Amador Valley baskets as the Dons closed their deficit to 23-19.

Amador Valley threatened to do even more damage as the Dons' Mia Fisher stole yet another Berkeley pass and drove for a layup. Berkeley's Angelita Hutton

See BERKELEY, Page B2

Jacket boys capture league title

By Mike McGreehan

Fans of Berkeley High School boys basketball have plenty to cheer about.

The Yellowjackets beat Amador Valley Friday and edged San Ramon Valley Tuesday to take the East Bay Athletic League title.

The Jackets trounced Amador 81-52, then snuck past San Ramon 56-52. Berkeley (13-0 EBAL, 20-5 overall) had a great game Tuesday night from William Watkins, who scored eight of his 20 points in the fourth quarter to stall an upset bid by the Wolves (19-5, 11-2).

The Jackets had a lot easier game last Friday against Amador Valley. Berkeley got off to a fast start and never looked back. The Dons (4-9, 14-11, after losing to Monte Vista Tuesday), in contrast, were never in the contest.

The Jackets opened a 26-10 lead after one quarter and were coasting by halftime with a 50-22 advantage. By the end of the third quarter, their lead had grown to 67-30. Berkeley players could have fallen asleep in the fourth quarter and still won the game.

Kaylin Thornton, back in his usual starting role, led Berkeley with 13 points. Perry Pugh added 12.

Overall, though, Berkeley's offense was balanced, as 11 players contributed to the scoring.

Shobab Gaston tossed in nine points and Malik Harris eight. D'Marcus Thompson and William Watkins had seven points each.

Jason McGlaston and Nathan Dahl finished with five apiece. Allyn Washington, David Doubly and Jason Holzman all had three points. Austin Nichols, Zillion Cash and Art Alexander each added one basket.

Cash was a force on the boards with 10 rebounds. Thompson had six steals.



EL CERRITO'S Jovan Harris (35) makes a no-look pass to teammate Andrew Gooden with Richman's Wayne Oliver (22) on his back during the semifinal game of the ACCAL Super Power playoffs at El Cerrito High on Tuesday.

El Cerrito boys reach Super Power finals

It's a whole new show in ACCAL guys hoops

By Peter Mentor

How radical can things get in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League?

After all those years when it was a Bishop O'Dowd-St. Joseph boys basketball monopoly in the league, it's refreshing to see some other teams get their due.

El Cerrito (24-3) showed it belonged in the ACCAL Super power final before the team even reached the playoffs, when it knocked off perennial Super Power St. Joseph High of Alameda twice this season, once in a tournament and another time in a league showdown.

Now the Gauchos, after beating Richmond High 57-51 Tuesday night at home, are set to play in the ACCAL Super Power finals Friday at 8 p.m. in Alameda.

Everyone thought it would be against the hometown Pilots. Everyone was wrong.

The opponent is a bit of a surprise finalist. De Anza (19-8) shocked St. Joseph (21-6), 46-44, in the semifinals in Alameda Tuesday night to reach the finals against El Cerrito.

No waltz

El Cerrito didn't exactly waltz into the league finals either, and it could have been an all-Richmond championship.

The Gauchos trailed Richmond 16-11 after one quarter and they played the Oil-

ers nearly even in the third and fourth quarters.

The difference was a 13-3 second quarter, when El Cerrito started playing defense and managed to shut the Oilers down to one hoop on offense.

"Defense wins it," said El Cerrito coach Chris Huber. "We started playing solid defense. We went into a little bit of a zone that caused them problems. We didn't allow them to get second shots."

Huber thought his team would face St. Joseph for a third time, but when he learned Tuesday night that the Pilots were eliminated he wasn't totally surprised.

"I actually told the kids we'd probably see St. Joseph," said Huber. "They (the Pilots) were playing without Justin Davis, who broke his hand. It's nice to see De Anza in the final, it's a nice change."

El Cerrito beat De Anza by nine points the first time those two teams met in league play. Huber said it was a physical game, especially the play between Gauchos standout Andrew Gooden and the Dons' 6-8 player Patrick McCoy.

"He banged hard with Gooden the last time," said Huber of McCoy. "It was a physical game. It will be intense to see how it goes."

Woodward factor

The guy to look out for is from De

Anza Anthony Woodward, who has a good all-around game.

"I call it the 'Woodward Factor,'" said Huber. "Anthony can hit the 3-pointer, play the post and go to the basket. He's a winner."

El Cerrito may have its hands full with the Dons. Gooden has been shut down to a little less than 11 points per game in his last three starts. He had nine points against Richmond and only eight against Alameda.

Huber said teams are collapsing on Gooden. McCoy is going to make it hard for the Kansas-bound senior to score, although he did manage 15 points against the Dons in the first meeting.

But Gooden can pass and the other Gauchos are playing well on the other end of those passes.

Jovan Harris scored 18 points in the semifinal win over Richmond, and the El Cerrito senior had 16 points against Alameda and 17 against De Anza.

El Cerrito senior Emonte Jernigan chipped in 15 points against Richmond and junior Jamal Hill had six points.

Hill and Harris came through big in the second quarter against Richmond. Hill hit three baskets while Harris had two field goals and two free throws to account for most of the Gauchos' points in the 13-3 run.

Mustangs shock Panthers

St. Mary's boys ousted in semifinals

By Mike McGreehan

St. Mary's High School's boys basketball team didn't have a span of games leading to an eventual collapse.

The Panthers experienced their collapse in just one game.

That game, unfortunately for the Panthers, was their first-round Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League playoff at home Tuesday night against St. Elizabeth.

After once trailing by as many as 17 points, St. Elizabeth stormed back to claim a 47-44 win over the regular-season Powerhouse Division champions.

St. Elizabeth fans could barely control their glee as the Mustangs began to chip away at the Panthers' once-safe lead.

When the final buzzer sounded, those fans stormed the court to celebrate with their players and coaches. After the obligatory shaking of hands, St. Mary's players and coaches walked back to their locker room in stunned silence.

In actuality, St. Mary's collapse was not a game-long phenomenon. The Panthers' struggles began in the middle of the third quarter when they appeared well on the road to victory with a 34-17 lead.

St. Mary's (15-12) had built that lead thanks to its advantage in team speed, its quickness to the basket and its tenacity on the boards, which helped it create second and third chances.

Inexplicably, though, the Panthers' fortunes started to turn in the third quarter. What made the turn of events all the more strange was that St. Mary's maintained the same levels of effort and intensity that it had used to build its lead. It was just that the Panthers weren't getting the same results from those efforts that they had enjoyed earlier in the contest.

"I don't believe we were physically tired. I don't know what was going through the kids' minds," said St. Mary's assistant Sam Richardson. "We just missed a lot of easy shots."

St. Mary's struggles allowed the Mustangs to close their deficit to 38-29 by the end of the third quarter. Some 50 seconds into the fourth quarter, that lead was trimmed to 38-31 when St. Eliza-

See PANTHERS, Page XX

Cougars finish out season

By Mike McGreehan

Albany High School's girls basketball team endured a tough 1998-99 campaign. And the Cougars' outlook didn't get any brighter in the season's final week.

Last Wednesday, Albany got trounced 85-36 at Encinal. Two days later, the Cougars had to play the best team in their division in the season finale. Not surprisingly, Holy Names beat Albany 65-32.

Albany (11-11 Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League, 1-20 overall) was never in the game against Holy Names.

The Monarchs (11-1, 23-3) led 23-6 after one quarter and 35-8 by halftime.

The second half was a bit more even. By then, though, it was way too late for Albany to have a realistic shot of getting back into the game against the Powerhouse Division champions.

Tiffany Jessie was a bright spot for the Cougars with a game-high 16 points.

Kimbra Baker added nine points. Alison West, Grace Haukwa and Sarah Alves-Hyde scored two each. Jill Chung added a free throw.

Two days earlier, the Cougars actually got off to a good start against Encinal. They even led 12-11 after one quarter.

But the good fortune would not continue, as Albany trailed by a dozen points by halftime. Encinal finished the game with a 31-7 run in the final quarter.

Baker led the Cougars with 14 points and Jessie added 11.

West had four points while Haukwa and Kimi Yamamoto scored three each. Rebecca Zarchy had a free throw.

Berkeley

FROM PAGE B1

recovered quickly, however, and got back to block the shot.

Hutton's play won't show up in any box score. But it proved invaluable as it at least temporarily broke the Dons' rhythm and allowed the Yellowjackets to regain theirs. Berkeley scored the next five points to end the half with a 28-19 advantage.

Berkeley appeared on the verge of putting the game out of reach when it started the second half with a 10-4 run.

The Yellowjackets got an even bigger boost of confidence when its lead grew to 46-27. But just as the Yellowjackets were ready to hop on the fast track to victory, their game derailed.

Foul trouble

First, point guard Coriel Davis drew her fourth foul, forcing her to the bench until the fourth quarter.

Secondly, Davis wasn't the only Yellowjacket in foul trouble. Aisha Hollans soon drew her third, making Berkeley's situation even more dicey.

By the time the third quarter ended, Amador Valley had climbed back into contention at 48-38. The Dons' outlook got even better when they trimmed the Yellowjackets' lead to seven early in the fourth period.

Berkeley got its lead back up to 52-43, but Hollans drew her fourth foul with 5:18 left. With Berkeley's two top players now both in danger of fouling out, Amador Valley hoped to take advantage.

But Amador Valley proved to be its own worst enemy. Its shooting struggles continued and its fortunes from the charity stripe were even worse. The Dons' Jessica Common made only one of the two ensuing free throws, and the Yellowjackets still led by eight points.

But Berkeley had its own struggles, too. And the Dons slowly began to chip away. At one point Amador Valley managed to cut Berkeley's lead to four points.

But Berkeley had its own struggles, too. And the Dons slowly began to chip away. At one point Amador Valley managed to cut Berkeley's lead to four points.

But Berkeley still had enough in its tank to continue the ebb and flow, as it built its lead back to 56-48. Still, the Yellowjackets weren't out of the woods, as Fisher nailed a 3-pointer from the top of the arc to make the score 56-51 with 1:02 left.

As time wore down, Amador Valley had no other choice but to commit fouls. With 16.8 seconds left, the physical nature of this long-awaited rematch of the EBA's two top teams came to a head.

A scramble to grab a rebound of a missed Berkeley free throw led to a heated shouting match between Robin Roberson and Amador Valley's Jaysie Chambers. No technicals were called,



NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

BERKELEY'S AISHA HOLLANS (23) and Nichole Hardaway (10) scramble for a loose ball with Jaysie Chambers of Amador Valley. The Jackets won the game and took home the league title.

but Hollans picked up her fifth foul on the play—a call Nakamura questioned.

"I have no idea how they called that foul on Hollans," said Nakamura. "That foul should have been on Jaysie Chambers. Hollans was nowhere near the play."

Ultimately, though, Amador Valley had squandered too many of its earlier opportunities to make a final threat. The Dons also had a tough time controlling Hollans, who scored 24 points and grabbed 16 rebounds before fouling out.

Roberson finished with 10 points. Erica McGlaston had eight. Nichole Hardaway and Sabrina Keys finished with six each. Davis added four.

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Lady Gauchos reach Super Power playoffs

By Mike McGreehan

El Cerrito girls basketball was set to play in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League Super Power playoffs Wednesday night.

The Lady Gauchos (5-7, 9-12) took the No. 3 seed and were scheduled to play at No. 2 Encinal High (10-2, 9-7) in one semifinal, while No. 4 De Anza (3-9, 5-20) was at No. 1 Alameda High (12-0, 24-2).

The finals are Saturday night at 8 p.m. at Alameda High.

The Lady Gauchos didn't fare so well in their ACCAL game with Alameda last Friday, as the Hornets rolled to a 111-46 victory win.

Alameda's Kari Wong led the assault on the Gauchos with a high 23 points. Wong was one of the Hornets players to reach double figures in scoring. Two others had points and one had eight.

Despite the 65-point loss, Berkeley had two of its players reach double figures in scoring. Dinah Belmont and Gauchos with 15 points while Tiffany Nowlin added 11.

Tamika Nesbit added nine points but nobody else had more than one for El Cerrito.

Tiffany Shepard, Lynn Taylor and Christine Ikeda each finished with three points. Maisha had two.

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Panthers send St. Joseph packing

St. Mary's aiming for Powerhouse Division finals Saturday night

By Bill Kruissink

Great start

St. Mary's did a great job stopping Gordon last week. The three-time all-leaguer didn't score until the second half, after which her team trailed 20-7.

Gordon didn't add to the ledger for another five minutes and the Panthers built an insurmountable 35-9 lead.

"The plan? To shut down Kate," Panther Rosie Aikens said. "We put one person on her the whole time."

Only Pilot sophomore Jenny Leitz was able to break through for St. Joseph. Leitz knocked down a 3-pointer a little less than two minutes into the game, giving the Pilots a 3-2 edge.

But after St. Mary's Robyn Byrnes struck off the offensive boards 1 1/2 minutes later, the Panthers were ahead to stay.

Desiree English added a free throw and Aikens (a game-high 13 points) hit a field goal with 29 seconds to go in the first quarter to put the Panthers out front 7-3.

After Leitz struck for two early in the second half, the Panthers ran off the next 13 points to take a 20-5 lead into the locker room.

In fact, the Panthers were on a 28-4 run. Aikens was especially hot, scoring off a pass from Celeste De-

Gruder with 59 seconds to go in the first half, then sending a 3-pointer down the chute midway in the third quarter. Thirty seconds later, Aikens hit off an in-bounds pass for a 33-9 advantage.

Kaniya Warren added the finishing touch to the run by scoring on a putback with 2:56 to go in the third.

The Pilots limited the Panthers to just four points in the fourth period, but scored just seven points themselves. St. Mary's maintained its double-digit lead right to the end.

"I think my team followed the game plan tonight," St. Mary's coach Don Lawson said. "That was a big plus for us. And that we were able to maintain the lead at the end - I was very pleased with that."

The win was important for St. Mary's, which was coming off a 48-point loss to the undefeated Alameda

Hornets three days before. A loss like that can shake a club's confidence.

St. Mary's, however, looked solid against St. Joseph.

"I wasn't worried," Lawson said. "I think we played (Alameda) pretty well in the first half. We missed a lot of opportunities, missed numerous layups."

The regular-season finale for both clubs, the win tightened the Panthers' grip on second place in the Powerhouse Division of the ACCAL.

By defeating Salesian in the opening round of the playoffs, the Panthers will go to the NCS playoffs with 20 wins. The NCS Division IV playoffs are set to begin March 2.

The loss eliminated the Pilots from postseason play. Last winter, the Pilots reached the semifinals of the NCS playoffs.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Tackwondo

The 30th annual U.C. Open Tackwondo Championships will take place at the Kaiser Auditorium at 8:30 a.m. on March 20. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$7 general ad-

mission. Child under 5 are free and group discounts are available. For more information, call the University of California Martial Arts Program at 642-3268. Information is also available on the Internet at www.ucmap.org.

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH



Coriel Davis
Berkeley High
Girls Basketball

Coriel Davis has given more to Berkeley High basketball than her statistics may show. The St. Mary's College-bound senior is averaging seven points, four assists and three rebounds per game, but it's her leadership on the floor that has set the talented point guard apart.

"It's the intangibles," said her coach Gene Nakamura. "The affect she has on the team. She gives us more confidence. She helps us running the offense."

Berkeley has gone undefeated since Davis' return from a serious knee injury.



Jovan Harris
El Cerrito
Boys Basketball

Jovan Harris has been one of the driving forces giving El Cerrito its first undefeated league season in years.

Harris is averaging 16.7 points and about five rebounds a game. His attitude has also given the Gauchos a lift whenever the team hits a sticky situation.

"He stepped up his game both offensively and defensively," said EC Coach Chris Huber. "He's been real positive too. He has a tendency to try to pick people up."

Athletes of the Month, which will be published Thursday (Berkeley Voice, The Journal) & Friday (Montclair) of each month, is co-sponsored by Hills Newspapers & Triple Play USA (Indoor - Recreation Center). Hills Newspapers is solely responsible for the selection of the athletes. To nominate an athlete fax your selections to Hills Sports, 339-4066.



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Panthers

PAGE B1

Baker Altheimer grabbed a rebound and drove the length of the court for a layup. Some crisp passing by St. Mary's resulted in a basket by Venter that put the Panthers by nine points again with 6:33 left.

But the Panthers weren't going to let away again, as St. Elizabeth (16-point six unanswered points to pull out three at 40-37. A Venter basket at 2:48 left seemed to take some of the pressure off the Panthers' shoulders. Venter made one of two free throws to extend St. Mary's lead to 40-37 with 1:53 to play. But 16 seconds later, Altheimer buried another layup to tie the score. Free throws accounted for the final five points of the contest.

First, James Harris made one of two shots to give the Panthers their lead with 1:07 left. St. Elizabeth cut score on its ensuing possession, and St. Mary's Kellen Dixon tied to take advantage with a fast break to the other end of the court. Altheimer, however, recovered a block Dixon's layup attempt.

Altheimer also played a key offensive role as time ran down. His two layups put the Mustangs up to stay at 36-39 seconds left. Jason Russell tied the game with two more free throws with 12.8 seconds remaining. St. Elizabeth then got the second half off to a fast start by scoring the first four points to take a 10-9 lead. Moments later, the Mustangs hit a 14-13 lead. But St. Mary's Glenn scored a layup to start one of 17 unanswered points that ended into the third quarter. Waters finished with 12 points.

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Erda	Ellen Rabiner (6/20)
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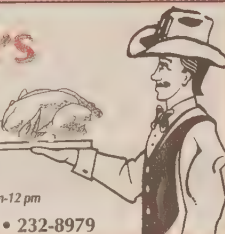
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FORD 1989 Taurus Excellent. New original transmission/brakes. Loaded. Aloys Book- \$5000, selling \$3800; 510-433-4701.

Autos

FORD 1986 Country Squire, Large Wagon, trim, loaded, plus rack, excellent condition. 80K, \$3200/bo
510-547-3750

Autos

FORD 1979 Mustang, 40K, sunroof, 4 cyl, clean, runs good, Silver/Black, tan floor uppper. 510-523-9616

CLASSIFIED

Autos

HONDA 1995 Civic DX AT, PS, Tilt, STK#285961, Lic#4BFD233; Sale: \$10,980
Lloyd Wise
Used Car Supermarket
838-4000

Autos

HONDA 1988 Accord DX 5-speed, 4-door, runs and drives, AC, CC, stereo, \$3500 Smogged Call 769-6620

Autos

HONDA 1983 Civic Hatchback, 2-door, 5-speed, 1 owner, 116k miles Good condition. \$1250
510-339-1073 (evenings)

Autos

HYUNDAI 1991 Excel, sunroof, 4-speed, good value, \$1300. 510-855-9285

Autos

DODGE 1984 Charger Shelby, 33K, New, Carburetor, battery, tires, paint. Runs good! \$1300 obo
510-865-6417

Autos

FORD 1996 CONTOUR AT, PS, AC, PL, PW, AM/FM Cass, CC, Tilt, Low miles STK#460190, Lic#3UVJ843 Was \$12,995 - Sale: \$9,895
Lloyd Wise
Used Car Supermarket
838-4000

Autos

FORD 1997 ESCORT S/W AT, PS, AC, Low miles S T K # 4 6 1 2 2 0, Lic#3WAU195 Sale: \$8,380
Lloyd Wise
Used Car Supermarket
838-4000

Autos

FORD 1994 T-BIRD AT, PS, AC, PL, PW, AM/FM Cass, CC, Tilt, leather, extra clean, low miles. STK#4591200, Lic#3SLF662 Sale: \$9,995
Lloyd Wise
Used Car Supermarket
838-4000

Autos

FORD 1991 Taurus GL, 4-door, AC, 144k, 1 owner with service records. \$3500
BO 510-559-8801

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Autos

FORD 1996 CONTOUR AT, PS, AC, PL, PW, AM/FM Cass, CC, Tilt, Low miles STK#460190, Lic#

403 Help Wanted

ACCOUNTANT

Fast growing Construction Management Company, beautiful Grand Lake office, seeks candidate with 5 plus years experience. AP, AR, GL, Payroll, Tax experience. Must-9 preferred. Full-time, full benefits. Fax resume to 510-268-1721.

BOOKKEEPER

FULL-CHARGE: Nonprofit helps elementary school children's social, emotional and intellectual development. Friendly, educated staff of 45 offer professional development, materials and research. Requires strong Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, and Inventory; solid English; accurate written report; calm, positive spirit. Report to Accounting Manager. Budget per \$35,000. 40 hours per week salary \$33,000 with excellent benefits. Resume and cover letter, and salary history to Montclair Bookkeeper Search, 2000 Embury, #305, Oakland, CA 94606. No Calls. EOE/AA.

ACTIVITY Coordinator for El Sobrante Adult Day Care. Must have 3-5 years experience, Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Must be a coordinator or relevant degree. Individual must plan, supervise and coordinate group activities. Must enjoy working with the elderly, be dynamic and resourceful. Benefits plus \$2,000. Call: 510-568-1005 or fax resume to 510-669-1008.

ADMINISTRATOR: Busy Real Estate Company looking for part-time office administrator. Must have computer skills. Flexible hours. Salary DOE. Fax resume to 763-2922.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Part-time position between two to three days per week. Full day on Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for individual proficient in Word 7 and knowledgeable with Excel 7 plus the aptitude to learn a variety of additional software. Some light accounting skills and willingness to learn a variety of administrative functions in the financial planning and asset management field would be a big plus. Location: 510-244-2112, attention Jill.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Multi-national firm needs detail-oriented, full-time office player. Must have MSOffice, PageMaker, and WP 5.1 experience. Salary \$32-\$37K, or higher DOE. Fax or mail resume and cover letter to: W. Tucker, (510)652-1859, INR, 5801 Christie Ave., Oakland, CA 94608.

ADMINISTRATIVE Assistant. Nonprofit education organization helps elementary schools foster social, emotional and intellectual development. Friendly, well educated staff of 45 provides a wide range of professional development services, curriculum and research. Need experience, high-energy individual to coordinate all administrative duties. High-education excellent: oral and written English skills; attention to details; organization and follow up; computer (Word, Excel, file manager) and secretarial skills. Flexible, calm and positive. Attractive benefits. Salary \$32-\$39K. Fax resume and salary history to Administrative Assistant Search, 2000 Embury, #305, Oakland, CA 94606. (AA/EOE).

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Good people skills, computer literate. Full-time, small office, Berkeley. Fax resume to: 510-846-2439.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Seeking a professional assistant for consulting office in Oakland's Haddon Hill area. Part-time 8-20 hours, great flexibility for mature, self-directed individual with prior administrative experience. Requires BS/BA, proficiency in Word, Excel, Internet, and Outlook. Call: 510-858-7226.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Small, successful, software company is looking for an energetic individual who wants to work, learn and grow with us. The job entails full responsibility for company phone and mail; office equipment and maintenance; customer files, correspondence, and debits. This person will assist in travel arrangements, direct mail campaigns and editing of printed materials.

Applicants must be organized, self-directed, flexible, detail-oriented, multi-tasking, have excellent written and phone skills. PC skills required.

Casual dress. Lot of environmental. Competitive salary & benefits package. Mail, fax or e-mail resume to Human Resources Department.

DBASOFTWARE 1195 Park Avenue Emeryville, CA 94608 Phone: 510-658-9900 Fax: 510-658-9927 e-mail address: job@dbasoft.com www.dbasoft.com

403 Help Wanted

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Leading SF architectural firm seeks energetic, accurate, organized administrative & marketing assistant. MS Word & Excel required. Quark/InDesign, Photoshop, PageMaker & plus. Mail or fax letter and resume to Carol Arnold, BSA Architects, 350 Pacific Avenue, SF, CA 94111. Fax: 415-962-1551.

ADMINISTRATIVE Assistant/Office Assistant: Part-time, will train. Outgoing, cheerful professional, good people skills. Call 521-2225.

CLASSIFIED

339-8777

ADVERTISING SALES

Regional magazine based in Emeryville seeks experienced Sales Pro familiar with East Bay area. Provides commission plus benefits. Casual, friendly office. Fax resume to: Sales Director 510-658-9902.

APARTMENT Manager: 18 units, close to Lake Merritt, full time, salary \$30,000. Minimum 2 yrs experience and references required. Fax resume to 510-895-8750.

ARCHITECT

Leading SF architectural firm seeks Senior Technical architect. Specification writing for hotels, country clubs, community buildings. Provide code expertise, in-home plan checking, quality control, and detailing. ACOA plus. Mail or fax letter and resume to Mark Schatz, BSA Architects, 350 Pacific Avenue, SF, CA 94111. Fax: 415-962-1551. No calls please.

ASSISTED LIVING

Are you a responsible, compassionate and positive person who truly cares about seniors? If so, **SUNRISE OF OAKLAND** is looking for a person who is like you to join our dynamic team!

Part/Full-time flexible hours and on-call positions available for: Care Managers, Medication Managers, for our Assisted Living and Alzheimer neighborhoods.

LVN or RN Weekend positions also Driver/Assistant

Part-time available. Class B license required for 15 seat bus. Apply at 11889 Skyline Blvd., Oakland or contact Diana Egan, (510) 531-7190.

BAKERY COUNTERPERSON

Experienced. Must work Saturdays. Full-time preferred. 2 must be available. Apply at Montclair Bakery, 2220 Montclair Blvd., Suite #140, Oakland, 94611. 510-530-8052 or fax 510-530-5771.

BOOKKEEPER, full-charge in-house. Small Berkeley business needs someone with experience in QuickBooks Pro, PC, AR, AP, GL, in-house monthly production of financial statements. Manufacturing experience preferred. Mac software experience a plus. Approximately 20 hours per week. Salary DOE. Fax resume to: 510-849-3463.

BOOKKEEPER OFFICE ASSISTANT

needed in Oakland Commercial Real Estate firm. Part-time flexible hours. Must know QuickBooks, A/R, A/P, real estate experience helpful. Please fax resume to 510-238-9131.

BOOKKEEPING/Accounting: Part-time 20/25 per week for Oakland Property Management Firm. Some A/R or GL experience preferred. Accounting students welcome. Fax resume to: 893-5617.

BUSY small shop on Oakland/Piedmont border needs professional sincere stylist. Full-time or part-time, commission or rental. 5 years experience minimum. Call Becky 450-0214.

CAMP COUNSELORS

Summer camp program. Preferably teacher certified or education background. June 10-August 20. Plan daily activities organize field trips. Creative and love of children. Salary approximately \$3,000 for ten weeks. Fax resume 925-376-9574.

CASHIER: Full-time benefits. Apply in person: Berkeley Natural Grocery, 1336 Gilman St., Berkeley.

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADS REALLY WORK!

Call Classified to find out more! 339-8777

CLEANER: computer person, full-time or part-time. Will train. 4364 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. Pick up application.

CLERKS: Cashier/stocking. 7/2 start. Must be able to lift 50lbs. Full-time positions available in Oakland/El Cerrito. Send resume: 6000 Potrero Ave., El Cerrito. 94530.

403 Help Wanted

COMPUTER SYSTEMS ASSISTANT

Long-term part-time evenings and weekends at 20 hours/week in downtown Berkeley. SDA-A company specializes in fund raising for nonprofit organizations. Applicants: Part-time systems assistant in the Systems Department of our Berkeley Calling Center. Applicants should have experience using Foxpro or Base Strong verbal and written communication skills are important considerations. Please mail or fax resume to: Part-time call center: SDA-A, 1950 Adeline St., Suite 203, Berkeley, CA 94704. Fax: 510-540-7048.

HOUSECLEANERS

Expanding cleaning company needs cleaners. Part-time Full-time. \$10/hour English speaking; insured; friendly; excellent references. Usa 683-1747.

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403 Help Wanted

GENERAL Office Clerk

Part-time 25 hours/week, Monday-Friday, 9-2. Duties include pulling files, filing documents, processing incoming/outgoing mail. Heavy lifting. Fax resume: 510-444-0248.

GROUT TECHNICIAN

The Great Doctor of Oakland seeks part to full-time grout technician. \$10/hour. Must have reliable auto/driving license. Must be detail oriented. Some tile/grouting experience preferred. Will train right person. Send resume: 4200 Park Blvd., Suite 202, Oakland 94612 or fax: 510-465-0350.

HOUSECLEANERS: part-time Oakland/Berkeley area. Experience required with references. \$6-\$10/hour. 510-832-7670.

TO Place A Classified Ad

CALL 339-8777

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403 Help Wanted

NURSE

CHHA/CHNA/CHNA Experience required. Caring person for hospice program. Call 1-800-928-8841. Hospice Preferred Choice. EOE M/F/D/V.

OFFICE

BROKER ASSISTANT: Assist mortgage broker with communication, bookkeeping, computer input, light bookkeeping, telephones. Must have excellent communication skills, good computer and math skills. Great job for right person. Earnings will match experience and effort. Some flexibility with hours. Send resume to Affinity Mortgage, 2233 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda 94501 or fax to 510-748-4460.

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Rodriguez Need computer skills including Quicken. Good grammar/ spelling skills essential. Long-term permanent position. Schedule is flexible. Hours may increase from time-to-time. Must have car for errands. Fax resume to 652-9481.

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Female Assistant, Women's Wellness Therapy Company. Excellent in telephone, PC skills (Word-Comp), self-starter, detail-oriented, efficient, own car. \$10-\$12.15-30 hours/week. Flexible. 510-849-9292.

OFFICE HELPER

Small business needs full-time office clerk, organized individual with good computer and phone skills to prepare contracts and telephone work. Self-starter, able to work under pressure. Salary negotiable. Contact Linda @ 510-655-5200.

OFFICE WORKER

Small, national business specializing in holiday rentals in France (July, 6-8 hours/day, Monday-Friday). Must have traveled to France or Italy. Some knowledge of the French language preferred. Job requires strong computer and telephone skills. Familiarity with billing or accounting helpful. Person will be handling telephone calls from clients with regard to our beautiful holiday rentals in Europe. Responsibilities also include billing, meeting and shipping. Ability to work in a busy office necessary. Please send resume to Village, 2124 Kittredge St., #200, Berkeley, CA 94704 or call 559-8080.

OPERATIONS: Permanent part-time operations positions at a private swim club.

Must have own transportation. References and enjoy taking care of people. Call Susan: 510-339-0234.

OPTOMETRIST office seeks

Front Office Staff. Intercommunicative skills, and attention to details necessary. Fax resume to: 510-530-2073.

ORDER ENTRY- PERSON

Full-time/Part-time. Fax resume to: 510-536-6520

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Belgin immediately. September-June, director certified, to administer before and after school care program. Hour 9-6. Salary range \$25-\$30K DOE. Fax resume 925-376-9574.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Belgin immediately. September-June, director certified, to administer before and after school care program and summer adventure camp. Hour 9-6. Salary range \$25-\$30K DOE. Fax resume 925-376-9574.

REAL ESTATE SALES

FREE TRAINING!

Quick Licensing, fee reimbursement, and FREE training for licensed agents. Positions available.

Call Prudential

California Realty/ Mason McDuffie Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

1-800-499-5551

403 Help Wanted

403 Help Wanted

REAL ESTATE

We have a few openings for newly licensed real estate agents. Who want to work as an assistant for broke while you learn the business and get paid. Please call Gloria for an interview.

MONTCLAIR BETTER HOMES

339-8400

REAL ESTATE Agents, Referrals

Solutions is searching for experienced, licensed agents to locate rentals for busy professionals and students in the Berkeley/Oakland area. High volume, fast paced. We provide leads and all the clients, and you locate the vacancies. We are extremely busy! \$2,000 - \$7,000 per month. Will train. Car required. Rental Solutions 645-3688

TO Place A Classified Ad

Call 339-8777

RECEPTION

Weiss Associates a premier environmental consulting firm, is seeking a Receptionist. Experience with digital phone system, greeting walk-in guests, administrative tasks using MS Office and attention to detail required. Resume to: Mattson, 5500 Shellmound Blvd., Emeryville, CA 94608. Fax: 510-521-5535. E-mail: myhobbs@aol.com

RECEPTION SECRETARY

Phones, PC savvy on MSWord/WordPerfect. Type 40wpm plus min. Mail, Salary \$22-\$26K. Plus benefits.

WOLLBORG/MICHELSON PERSONNEL INC

925-946-0200 Fax: 925-944-8791

RECEPTIONIST, part-time

with some back office experience. Fax resume: 510-832-7340

RECEPTIONIST

Emeryville firm offers chance to move up. Take charge of office desk, mail and greet etc. However company offers chance to use all software on latest software during slow times. Call Phyllis at Wollborg/Michelson (925)946-0200; fax 925-944-8791.

RECEPTIONIST, light clerical duties

Fax resume to: 510-836-2551

RECEPTIONIST WEEKENDS

Buy Montclair real estate office seeking a highly motivated part-time, Sunday only receptionist. Need someone professional with multiple phone line reception experience. Must be multi-tasking and have strong communication and customer service skills. Fax resume to Alex at 925-339-0999 or mail to 6137 La Salle Ave., Oakland 94611 EOE.

RECEPTIONIST, part-time

Emeryville, 9:30-5:00 hour. Possible benefits. PM, overnight, early AM, and weekend shifts 832-7126.

RESTAURANT-Placenta in Berkeley, Manager 3 Shifts

vacation and meal benefits \$12/hour, Spanish speaking. 510-625-6695. Eric. Fax 510-625-6676

403 Help Wanted

RESTAURANT CHAIN FIELD TESTER

Part-time B/C Certif based company, 2 days per week \$6.25 per hour. Will train, flexible hours, valid CDL, DMV printout and proof of insurance. Non-smoking company. Ask for Selma: 237-1952

781 Alameda
Quality Office Space
Located 550 Park Street
Approximately 790
Excellent South Shore loca-
tion Off-street parking
beautiful garden setting
year lease minimum. Owner
broker 510-523-7240

STORE Front warehouse
Office, bathroom 24
Clement Street 1750 sq
Utilities included
510-595-0336

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Ad Call 339-8777 ◀

782 Berkeley & North

\$595 ALBANY Great loca-
tion on Ramona at Solano
Approximately 320 sq
Prime office space
510-525-3637

Video Production facility
West Berkeley. Great
multi-media, computer
24-hour service.
\$200 to \$330, visit
inside 510-528-6044

ELEGANT, sunny off-
sully, 700 sq. ft., 2
plus reception on 3rd floor.
Near Alta Bates 2034 Bldg.
Berkeley 510-846-4555

784 Emeryville

WAREHOUSE, Emeryville
Not Livestock. All or part
of space available. 170
foot Johnson at 510-654-11
ext. 221

786 Oakland

ROCKBIDGE: Beautiful
bodywork office space.
Converted home, a new
BART. Large Workshop
space available weekly.
287-8816

For lease office space
Telegraph Ave. between
Alcazar and Ashby or
Convenient home office
Capitola rooms 575 sq.
\$750/month, 3 ground floor
rooms 635 sq. ft. necessary.
\$625/month. Rental offer
space approximately 1000
sq. ft. including 2 bathroom

PROFESSIONAL 450 sq
 office suite Piedmont
 Grand Avenue area. Great
 work environment, utilities
 ACI. Janitorial Service
 included. Becker Property
 Management 510-655-9050

BEAUTIFUL professional
 offices in small craftsman
 building, at College/Par
 route BART. Hardwood
 floors, built-ins. Call
 925-943-6637

**ELLWOOD
 COMMERCIAL
 REAL ESTATE**

COLLEGE AVENUE
 Excellent location. Prime
 retail space, 800 sq ft

MONTCLAIR - Prime
 Retail Space Available
 1400 sq ft & 1200 sq ft
 Excellent location

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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF DAVID NILES HINDS Case Number P99-00257

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DAVID NILES HINDS:

A PETITION has been filed by JOSHUA DAVID HINDS in the Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa.

THE PETITION requests that JOSHUA DAVID HINDS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests that the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on March 18, 1999 at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. 37, Room 8001 located at 625 Court Street, Martinez,

CA 94553

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in section 9100 of the California Probate Code. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a formal Request for Special Notice of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in section 1250 of the California Probate Code. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

PETITIONER: JOSHUA DAVID HINDS, 844 Bates Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94553. The Journal February 25, March 4, 11, 1999.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No 99-027. The Name of the Business: Tobacco Outlet, 10164 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530. Is registered by the following owners:

Rose H. Ma, Chien V. Ma, 3750 Shafter Ave., #4, Oakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by a general partner-

ship.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 29, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on January 29, 1999. The Journal February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 1999.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No 99-051. The Name of the Business: Unix International, 1862 San Luis Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Is registered by the following owner:

Mamdouh Awad, 1862 San Luis Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on February 8, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on February 8, 1999. The Journal February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 1999.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No 99-1181. The Name of the Business: Slimmer Today, 2621-B Pleasant Hill Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. Is registered by the following owners:

Kristin McMaisters, 340 Grapevine Place, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

Akin A. Mutlis, 340 Grapevine Place, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

This business is conducted by a general partnership.

The registrant commenced to transact business

under the fictitious business name listed above on February 19, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on February 19, 1999. The Journal February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 1999.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No 99-699. The Name of the Business: DRIVINGFUN, 1221 Belfair Drive, Pinole, CA 94564. Is registered by the following owners:

Karen Edwards, Lonnie Edwards, 1221 Belfair Drive, Pinole, CA 94564.

This business is conducted by a husband and wife.

The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on February 2, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on February 2, 1999. The Journal February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 1999.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No 99-1083. The Name of the Business: Living Image, 3838 Milton Drive, #6, El Sobrante, CA 94803. Is registered by the following owner:

Carole Smith, 3838 Milton Drive, #6, El Sobrante, CA 94803.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on February 17, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra

Costa County on February 17, 1999.

The Journal February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 1999.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No 99-550. The Name of the Business: Franchise Referral Service, 1219 Amaranth Way, Concord, CA 94521. Is registered by the following owner:

Debbie Stehr, 1219 Amaranth Way, Concord, CA 94521.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 27, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on January 27, 1999. The Journal February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 1999.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No 99-0560. The Name of the Business: Tabor Automation Group, 182 Bayside Court, Richmond, CA 94804. Is registered by the following owner:

Nancy Greer Tabor, 182 Bayside Court, Richmond, CA 94804.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 27, 1999.

Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on January 27, 1999. The Journal February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 1999.

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Real Estate & Home

The Montclarion, The Piedmonter, Berkeley Voice, The Journal

February 25-26, 1999

Section C

Our thanks 'Realtor appreciation month' drawing winners revealed [C4]

Weekly home sales See what's moving in your neck of the hills [C5]

Tarpoft and Talbert Is there nothing more poetic than a home listing? [C6]

Better living through 'green' design

Builders show how respect for Earth can pay dividends for health, environment

By Dave Weinstein
CCN SPECIAL SECTIONS

When it comes to designing a home that's in harmony with the environment, Mark DeMaio is as committed as a person can get.

As he walks through a 2,000-square-foot Lake Tahoe-New Mexican-style home he built five years ago in Concord, he ticks off some of its ecological features: large windows in the upstairs bedroom face south to pull in sunlight for passive solar heating. They also gaze out at Mt. Diablo. Ceiling fans greatly reduce the need for air-conditioning. A bright white "cool" roof wards off heat. Cellulose (primarily recycled newspaper) provides insulation much more efficiently than most synthetic insulators.

The dry wall is also made of recycled paper.

Cabinets are made of solid wood, not particleboard, to avoid potential chemical irritation, and are treated with natural finishes, not petroleum. The kitchen floors are of ceramic tile, not vinyl.

About the only plastic you'll find in the house is in the wall sockets and the Jacuzzi.

On an adjacent lot he's building another house that's even more environmentally correct — the exterior walls are of straw bale made from Central Valley

rice hulls that would be burned as waste.

To DeMaio, as to most people in the world of environmental building design, it's not just about reducing your energy bill or avoiding indoor air pollution. Environmental building design is about harmonizing with nature, walking softly on the earth — about living well without doing harm.

But when DeMaio has rented the home out, the tenants he's found have been more concerned with how well it works and how well it looks than with how well it treats the planet.

"Most people want not what's in it for the environment," DeMaio says, "but what's in it for me."

Proponents of what is variously called "green," "environmental" or "natural" building come in many forms, whether they remodel existing homes or create homes from the ground up. Some are interested in saving the planet. Others are interested in safeguarding the health of a home's inhabitants from the poisons that they say are often found in modern building materials.

And there are those who simply appreciate the beauty of natural materials and natural forms, of homes that appear to be built out of the land on which they sit.

There is, nonetheless, a great deal that unites proponents of green design. They



STEVE THORNTON/CCN STAFF

MARK DEMAIO AND SIMON LANG work on a wall of DeMaio's straw bale home in Concord. Demario (left) says environmental design is about harmonizing with nature, walking softly on the earth and living well without doing harm.

believe that attention to environmental principles can benefit every homeowner. Most believe that these principles should be taken into account before choosing a brand of paint, a brand of kitchen cabinets, a heating and air-conditioning system, or an interior designer.

Many of the ever-evolving principles of ecological design can be adopted by anyone, by doing something as simple as planting a garden, opening a window or replacing household toxins with more benign substances.

The feel-good factor

Virginia Schomer, an interior designer from Mill Valley who runs the nonprofit group Building Concerns, is involved with environmentally sensitive design because it's good for both the planet and for the individual.

Ten years ago, before she learned about how logging the world's rainforests was damaging the atmosphere and destroying irreplaceable ecosystems, Schomer used to recommend that her

clients buy products made of exotic tropical hardwoods.

"I was actually participating in the destruction of these rainforests," she says. "That doesn't feel good."

As she learned about the possible health effects of breathing in formaldehyde from pressed wood and dander trapped in rugs, she says, she also started worrying about the bottom line. "I don't understand why every designer, every

See GREEN, Page C9

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That's right, a 3+BR home complete with professional working studio. A rare opportunity that won't last.
PHIL WEINGROW 339-8900 x 245

BEST OF THE OLD AND NEW.....\$239,500
Rebuilt craftsman. 3BR, 2BA, over 2,000 sq. ft., pest clearance. New roof, kitchen, baths, paint, floors, carpet.
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A PARKWOODS CONDOMINIUMS.....\$237,000
Much sought after Carmel model. Spacious great room, Bay window, fireplace, gourmet kitchen. 2 master suites, pool, gym & more.
TOM ERWIN 339-8900 x 230

THE REGILLUS!.....\$219,500
Historic building, old world charm, high ceilings, lovely molding, hardwood floors. 2BR, 2BA.
D.C. HODGES 339-8900 x 253

NEW LISTING PIEDMONT PINES.....\$319,000
Level lot! Traditional 2+BR, 1.5 + 1/2 bath home on quiet street w/sidewalks. Hardwood, attached garage. Formal dining room, bonus room.
HAL CASTLE 339-8900 x 220

NEW LISTING - MONTCLAIR.....\$305,000
Classic Traditional. 3BR, 2BA, formal dining room, beautiful hardwood flooring. Level out patio and year. Attached garage.
HAL CASTLE 339-8900 x 220

LOCATION, PRICE, QUALITY, SIZE.....\$215,000
This 3BR, 2BA condo has all of the above and more. Only 4 units in building. One block to San Francisco transportation. Glenview special.
ED LINDORFER 339-8900 x 241

NOT FOR YOUR WEEKEND WARRIORS!.....\$125,000
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NICK LAVROV 339-8900 x 219

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Know your options in face of child's rising college costs

The cost of a college education is now rising at approximately 4 percent to 5 percent annually, down from the double-digit increases of just a few years ago. Still, over the last 10 years, college costs have doubled.

If your child was 8 years old in 1998, his or her first year in a public college is projected to cost \$18,000, including tuition, fees, books, room and board, transportation and other expenses, according to the College Board's annual survey of college expenses.

The biggest mistake you can make is waiting to invest until you are earning more. Investing a manageable amount today lets you take advantage of compounded growth and with some investments, tax-deferred or even tax-free growth.

First, you will need to decide whether to invest in your child's

Money Matters

By Leila Gough

name or your own. The decision should be based on how much control you want over the account when it is released to the child. There can be tax advantages to investing in your child's name.

The second step is to choose among a number of investment alternatives.

Here are some options:

Education IRA

This type of Individual Retirement Account allows a maximum contribution of \$500 per beneficiary, per year. You do not pay any taxes on the earnings as the account is growing, but contributions are not deductible.

As long as the assets are used for qualified higher education expenses before the beneficiary turns 30, the earnings in the account can be withdrawn tax free. However, contributions are limited based upon your adjusted gross income.

Zero-coupon bonds

Your financial consultant can help you set up your purchases of zero-coupon bonds so they mature throughout your child's years in college. Zero-coupon bonds are purchased at a deep discount to their face value: the principal and interest you will receive when the bonds mature.

However, zero-coupon bonds do not pay any current interest. You, the owner of the bond, are responsible for any taxes due each year on the bond's interest even though you will not receive the interest payments until the bonds mature.

If taxes are a concern, you may want to consider purchasing municipal zero coupon bonds which are free from federal income tax.

Keep in mind that if you need to sell your bonds before they mature, you may receive more or less than you paid for them.

Market prices of zero-coupon bonds are more volatile than ordinary interest-bearing bonds.

529 plans

These plans, named for the section of the tax code that created them, are qualified state tuition assistance programs that offer a systematic way to save for a child's education. They are subject to approval and adoption by individual states, and not all states have adopted them.

Earnings on the account assets are tax-deferred and as long as withdrawn earnings are used for quali-

fied higher education expense, they are taxed at the student's marginal tax rate.

Any part of the withdrawn earnings not used for qualified higher education expenses is assessed a penalty when it is withdrawn.

Federal law prohibits participants from directing their own investments in these plans, so these plans are less flexible than other college-savings plans.

Because you do not direct your own investments, you may not be

happy with your potential. See your financial consultant before locking up your money for these plans. Do you have hard lessons later.

Leila Gough is an Associated Press writer. She helps clients and reach their investment goals. She can be reached at (510) 885-1. Check out their web page at [agedwards.com](http://www.agedwards.com).

Bay Area corporations shape housing market

Those who have lived in the East Bay hills for a while know that our real estate market is greatly influenced by area corporations.

Several Fortune 500 companies have corporate headquarters in San Francisco: Chevron, PG&E and McKesson, for example. The East Bay has the likes of Safeway and Long's Drugs. The Peninsula and Santa Clara County add many more such as Intel, Hewlett-Packard and Oracle — all within commuting distance of the Oakland hills.

Several other large private and public companies have either their corporate headquarters or a significant presence in our area. Bechtel, Levi Strauss, Crowley Maritime are among the largest.

Corporate relocation in many ways is a recession-proof business. When the economy is good, large corporations expand by bringing in personnel from other offices.

When times are bad, companies regroup and this contraction again means movement. And the vast majority of corporate moves in our area involve homeowners.

In areas where there is a large proportion of owner/occupant homes, as many as one-fourth to one-third of all purchasers are relocating at the direction of their companies.

Couple this with a similar proportion of sellers who are relocating for the same reason, and at least half of all real estate transactions may be corporate-related.

How does this affect one who is making a discretionary move either within the area — to a bigger home because their family size is growing or an empty-nester who wants to stay in this area — or to one leaving the area without corporate support?

The good news is that there is almost always a constant flow of out-of-town buyers who are drawn to the East Bay because of its amenities — weather, schools, location, etcetera.

They tend to come more often in the Spring but over the last few years it seems that a corporate relocation can come at almost any time of year.

It is important to note that when an individual is relocating to the area, their corporation frequently will pay for negotiable closing costs.

Knowing what the corporation will pay on behalf of the purchaser can help a seller negotiate.

The bad news is that a home seller has to compete with motivated sellers who may have the benefit of a corporate home purchase program (where the corporation itself, or through the services of a home buying company, becomes a guaranteed buyer).

As the corporation will pay for all of their closing costs (including the commission and legal fees) and because many employers offer financial incentives to their relocating employees who sell their homes prior to a "buyout," they may feel they can sell their home at a lower price.

Check out our auto, truck and SUV classifieds in Motor Mart, page D8

Relocation, location, location

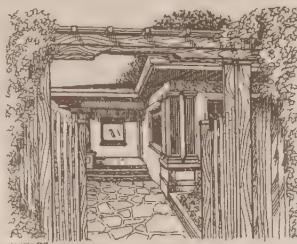
By Conrad Bassett

Secondly, if the home becomes "corporate owned," it may soon become vacant and cost the corporation one to two percent per month in carrying costs. Some purchasers only want to look at corporate-owned homes as they can become bargains.

Consider that a corporation purchases a home for \$400,000. If it costs them \$4,000 per month to carry the home (mortgage payments, property taxes, utilities, maintenance, repairs, etc.), often they will sell the home at a discount rather than wait six months or more to hopefully recapture the price they paid for it.

In this scenario, the corporation must decide if it makes sense to sell the home today for \$375,000 or to wait half a year to find someone who

See BASSETT, Page C8



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An exceptionally charming home with 3 bdrms, hwd flrs and a lovely book-filled library. Enjoy the new gourmet kitchen and peaceful garden. This home is a gem! ANIAN TUNNEY



151 WALDO AVE \$649,000
Elegance with a Mediterranean flare. Spacious master w/ walk-in closet. Central Piedmont location. DONALD GRUBB
1243 GRAND AVENUE \$310,000
Traditional w/ cherry oakwood detailing, formal dining, 3 bdrms & separate rm, 1+ ba & garden. SHEILA GALLAGHER

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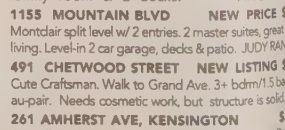
6120 MAZUELA DRIVE \$990,000
Exquisitely designed new custom home w/ breathtaking views of S.F. This 5 bdrm/4 1/2 ba home features fam room adjacent to gourmet kitchen w/ access to slate patio. MELUTTA BEESON
6186 MAZUELA DRIVE \$625,000
Smashing 2 yr. old Contemporary. Quality details & materials. View. Fabulous kitchen, air cond. Close in location. 5/3 w/ family room and rumpus. SANDRA VOGL



5931 MAZUELA DRIVE NEW LISTING \$499,000
Stylish & sophisticated, warm & inviting, this updated 3 bdr/2 1/2 ba home is just minutes from Montclair Village w/ shopping, master suite, fabulous kitchen & beautiful garden. JUDY CA
4439 TERRABELLA WAY NEW LISTING \$320,000
Original tri-level 3 bdrm/2+ ba model w/ beautiful landscaping. Large formal dining room w/ eat-in kitchen, family room & 2 decks. ANGELA WEBB



6045 ESTATES DRIVE NEW LISTING \$609,000
Fabulous top to bottom redesign in great location 4 bdrm/3 ba w/ eat-in kitchen, fam rm, formal dining rm, cathedral ceilings in the formal living room & view. KAREN STARR



1155 MOUNTAIN BLVD NEW PRICE \$274,000
Montclair split level w/ 2 entries. 2 master suites, great for living. Level-in 2 car garage, decks & patio. JUDY RANKIN
491 CHETWOOD STREET NEW LISTING \$238,000
Cute Craftsman. Walk to Grand Ave. 3+ bdrm/1.5 ba. Separate living room. Needs cosmetic work, but structure is solid. DEBRA
261 AMHERST AVE, KENSINGTON \$249,000
A small residence with a large sweeping SF view. Desirable Henry Hill for the current owner. 1 bdrm/1 ba w/ beautiful views from every room. Featured in Sunset Magazine. CARIN

Piedmont - Oakland By Appointment

COUNTRY ESTATE \$2,495,000
Historical English Country Estate with elegant formal rooms, European library & luxurious master suite w/ dual baths. 10+/- & guest house. SANDRA VOGL
VIEW • VIEW • VIEW \$849,500
Elegant home with gorgeous Bay and SF views. State of the art kitchen, comfortable family room, master retreat, wine cellar and well-designed exterior deck. DONALD GRUBB JR.

ELEGANT & GRACIOUS \$51,225,000
This elegant home is situated in central Piedmont close to schools & transportation. Dramatic step down living room w/ French doors to deck. 4 bdrms + master w/ view. MINDY SCOTT

A SPECIAL HOME \$695,000
This Crocker Highlands Tudor features 4 bdrms/3+ ba, library, solarium, updated kitchen & baths. The central two-story entry features a graceful staircase & leaded windows. E. DICKSON

RIDGEMONT CONTEMPORARY \$480,000
Desirable cul-de-sac location w/ 4 bdrms/3 ba. Elegant w/ fireplace, modern eat-in kitchen, spacious family room & bonus room with built-ins. SHERRY BENNETT
MOVE RIGHT IN \$449,000
The dramatic setting of this Piedmont side of Montclair is enhanced by expanses of glass. With 3 bdrms/2 ba, formal dining rm & excellent outdoor living spaces. E. DICKSON

ELEGANT TOWNHOME \$380,000
Leona Park Villas. 3 bdrm/2 1/2 ba Spanish Mediterranean townhouse w/ level flagstone patio, elegant master w/ jacuzzi tub. Wooded view. ANGELA WEBB

LOVINGLY MAINTAINED HOME \$310,000
Lovingly maintained w/ beautiful Bay views, this 4 bdrm/2 1/2 bath home features a spacious family room w/ fireplace to the back yard & flagstone patio. SHERRY BENNETT



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Calendar of events

Saturday, March 6

Woman to Woman: Finding the keys to buying your own home. Learn about investigating your best neighborhoods, setting priorities, teaming with industry professionals and the buying process in general. Sponsored by Marsha Quick of Red Oak Realty and Karen Ward of CMG Mortgage. Workshop held in Albany. Call (510) 718-2134.

Thursday, March 18

The California chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. at Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland.

Ruben Gusman, Satsuki azalea

specialist, will present slides on azaleas for bonsai. Call (510) 222-9664.

Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28

The Golden Gate Cymbidium Society's 10th Annual Show and Sale will be held on Saturday, March 27th and Sunday, March 28th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; free; Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., in Oakland's Lakeside Park. The show will include Cymbidium Society of America judging, orchid raffles and potting demonstrations. Call (510) 893-8476 for details.

Ongoing

Consumer Credit Counseling Service, a nonprofit community ser-

vice organization in Oakland has a series of free workshops. Registration is mandatory. For more information call (800) 501-5AVE. Discover Oakland's changing skyline, landmarks, churches and high-rises on one of the free guided walking tours sponsored by the city's Community and Economic Development Agency. Call (510) 238-3234.

Join University of California pathologist Dr. Robert Raabe from 9 a.m. to noon the first Saturday of every month for a free Sick Plant Clinic at the UC Botanical Gardens, 200 Centennial Dr. in Berkeley. Drop in with a piece of a sick or a dying plant and Dr. Raabe will diagnose the problem. Call (510) 643-2755 or visit garden@uclink4.berkeley.edu.

Russell Doi of the Mortgage Network hosts free **First Time Homebuyer Seminar** on an ongoing basis. Learn about the many first-time homebuyer programs available today. Find out just how much home you can afford to buy. Receive a free booklet that will help you prepare for the biggest investment you may ever make. Call (510) 526-6554 for reservations.

The Orchid Society of California meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the Lake Merritt Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. Learn about orchids and their care. Purchase orchid plants at the members' plant sale before the meeting. Orchid lecturers share their knowledge and provide

plants for a raffle. Join the camaraderie and learn about the beautiful world of orchids. Call (510) 531-1210 for more information.

The Golden Gate Cymbidium Society meets at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Lake Merritt Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. A plant sale featured before the meeting affords you the opportunity to purchase quality cymbidiums. These meetings feature expert growers from around world with their slides and valuable tips for growing cymbidiums. Attend this meeting and learn how to grow and bloom these beautiful plants. Call (510) 531-1210 for more information.

If you're trying to sell, you have a fixer-upper

Elbow grease, vision may boost asking price by thousands

When most people go to sell their houses, they do not like to think of their homes as fixer-uppers.

But, the things that they have to live with are just things that detract from the desirability of prospective buyer. The yellow and pea-green bathroom that is definitely spiffy back in 1950 negatives in the 1999 real estate market.

A realtor friend of mine firmly believes that many people leave a lot of money in a lowered sales price when they go to sell a house.

He says, "If people would just see the house more marketable, as completing the termite repair and making sure the title is clear and make it more presentable, the house would sell much faster and at a better price."

He can help with the title search, can help with the termite repair and with making the property more presentable. Completing any work required by termite report and doing cosmetic work will get you a much better selling price.

Look into painting the house inside out in neutral colors; update the kitchen and bathroom floors; refinishing hardwood floors if needed; cleaning up the yard; changing all broken plugs, plate covers and switches; installing a new roof if needed; and staging the house so it is attractive and homey for showings and tours.

What are the charms?

He recently worked on a 1970s-era house that not only looked bad but also had bad because of the rat that had died under the refrigerator.

Firm foundation

By Don Pearman

It would be difficult for a prospective buyer to see through the problems to find the charms of the house, which were many. The owner had recently moved to an assisted living facility and the children were left to sell the house.

At first, they were reluctant to

See PEARMAN, Page C8

NEW LISTING



5931 Mazuela Drive, Montclair

Stylish and sophisticated, warm and inviting, this recently renovated home is just minutes from Montclair Village. Special features include beautifully landscaped garden, handcrafted vaulted ceilings, skylights, great room with San Francisco views, updated kitchen with adjoining sunroom and terrace and romantic master bedroom retreat with double shower and whirlpool tub. Offered at \$459,000



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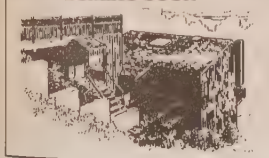
Like to feel on top of it all? You'll love this painted Brown Shingle, set high above street level & hidden in the trees. 3+ bedrooms, 2 baths, remodeled kitchen, terraced yard with patio & hot tub.



Asking price for this fine home is \$279,000

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MONTCLAIR.....\$439,000
Executive split-level home with wooded views, country kitchen, family room, den/office. Chuck Corwin

COMING SOON



MONTCLAIR.....\$349,000
Level-in ranch style home w/filtered Bay & canyon views. 3bd/2+ba, master suite w/spa. Teri Carlisle

COMING SOON



UPPER ROCKRIDGE.....\$335,000
Adorable split-level Traditional w/leat-in kitchen, formal DR, wonderful yard & rose garden. Teri Carlisle

COMING SOON



MONTCLAIR.....\$335,000
Beautiful 3bd home in private wooded setting, pottery studio, remodeled kitchen, gardens. Donna DeBardi

~ Open Sunday 2:00-4:30 ~

6291 Rutland Rd., Montclair - 4bd/3+ba.....\$925,000
Stunning new Traditional w/pno views, convenient location, exceptional quality. Helen Danhaki 547-5750

638 Gracett Dr., Claremont Hills - 5bd/3+ba.....\$849,000
Dramatic, spacious 2 yr old contemporary w/gorgeous Bay and hill views, family room, den. Dick Cohen

911 Aquarius Way, Montclair - 5bd/3+ba.....\$775,000
Beautiful new home w/warm finishes, great light, kitchen/family room, office, level yard. Joanna Gould

11 Hawks Hill, Hiller Hgls - 3bd/2+ba.....\$639,000
New listing! Smashing custom twinhouse w/4-bridge view, luxury finishes, private patio, lg lot. Dee Knowland

511 Florence Ave., Upr Rockridge - 4+bd/3ba.....\$425,000
New listing! Incredible value in sought-after neighborhood, fabulous master suite, den, wooded setting. Kathy Flynn

5041 Parkridge Dr., Pkridge Est. - 4+bd/3ba.....\$419,000
New listing! Wonderful 2-story Trad on large, level lot, formal DR, fam rm, remod kitchen. Vicki Woodhead

1107 Rose Ave., Piedmont - 3bd/2ba.....\$375,000
New listing! Charming gray shingle Cape Cod, light & bright, Golden Gate view, level yard. Nancy Rothman

4969 Stoneridge Ct., Ridgemont - 3bd/2+ba.....\$369,000
New listing! Sunny contemporary w/cook's kitchen/fam room, formal DR, 3-car gar, deep yard. Carolyn Jones

1137 Tulip Lane, San Leandro - 3+bd/2+ba.....\$284,000
Charming Camilla Ct. Mediterranean only 5 yrs old Kitchen/family room combo, yard. Michelle Miller

6323 Westover Dr., Montclair - 2bd/1ba.....\$279,000
Private retreat in fabulous Oak tree setting, remodeled kitchen/bath, deck, hot tub. Chuck Corwin

260 Caldecott Ln, #310, Oakland - 2bd/2ba.....\$244,000
New listing! Beautiful upgraded unit with 2 master suites, fireplace, 2-car garage. Rich Gould

3052 Sylvan Ave., Laurel - 2bd/1ba.....\$194,500
New listing! Charming bungalow in park-like setting, lovingly maintained, large yard. Diane Earl McCan

220 Caldecott Ln #309, Oakland - 1+bd/1ba.....\$189,000
New listing! Spacious top floor unit with cathedral ceiling in LR, loft, maple cabinets, hill views. Teri Carlisle

2615 Telegraph Ave. #302, Berkeley - 2bd/1ba.....\$185,000
New listing! Bright 3rd floor unit with great floor plan, near campus. Rich Gould

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Piedmont Estate.....\$2,700,000
A home for generations! Gorgeous 6bd/6+ba home on 3/4 acre grounds with lawns & gardens. Helen Danhaki 547-5750

Upper Rockridge Townhome.....\$299,000
Lovely 3bd/2ba townhome in woody setting, near shopping and transportation. Carolyn Jones

MONTCLAIR VALUE.....\$269,000
Well maintained & updated 2+bd/2ba home w/den or 3rd bedroom, private yard, filtered Bay views. Teri Carlisle

CHARMING MEDITERRANEAN.....\$229,000
Charming 3bd/1ba in desirable Redwood Heights, formal dining room, hardwood floors, price includes adjacent lot. Diane Earl McCan

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Professionals know the angles to get your home sold

By Laura Michelle
PACIFIC UNION

Pacific Union Service Center understands selling a home is an emotional process. Most people have memories built into their homes — from marks on the walls noting the children's growth to the kitchen floor tiled by hand. Although it can be difficult to watch other people walk through your home, these tips can ease the process and help turn your emotional investment into a financial gain.

Enlist a professional

Let a professional salesperson talk to the customer. Pacific Union Service Center, a member of the RELO network of 1,100 independent real estate firms across the country, can market your home to people already

living in the community as well as those thousands of miles away who are looking to move to the area soon. The agent can address the selling price, terms, possession date and other details.

Attendance is not mandatory

You do not have to be present during your home showing. This may be a great time to treat yourself to a movie, shopping, massage or dinner. Let the agent know how to reach you.

Avoid crowds

Potential buyers will feel like intruders and want to hurry through the home inspection if there are too many people around. Send the kids down to the ice cream store when the real estate agent shows your home.

Put Fido outside

Dogs may be man's best friend, but not when showing your house. Keep all pets out of the way and not underfoot.

Silence is golden

Keep the televisions and radios down — or off. Let the real estate agent and buyers talk freely without having to yell over noise.

This is not a social call

Be courteous and friendly, but don't try to force conversation with potential buyers. They are there to inspect your house, not to be social. Let the salesperson do the talking.

Stay in the background

The real estate agent knows what the buyers need and are looking for, the agent can best describe the best features of your house. Don't tag along. If there are any questions, the agent will ask you for information.

Do not apologize for the appearance of your home

If something out of the ordinary should happen to mar the home's appearance, inform the salesperson when you are first called for the showing. Should any objections be offered, let the salesperson answer them.

No garage sales

A showing is not the time to try and unload unwanted furniture or furnishings. Offering additional items may foul-up a potential sale.

About RELO

Through Pacific Union's alliance with RELO, local real estate firms can assist individuals relocating to virtually any community in the U.S. or abroad with services including home sale, home purchase, area orientation programs, household goods transportation, RELO FACTS cost-of-living analysis, SCHOOL FACTS reports on school systems, and comprehensive corporate relocation services. RELO is the country's highest sales-producing network with 1,100

broker firms, nearly 4,000 offices over 93,000 associates serving more than 15,000 communities. The combined 1997 residential volume of \$170 billion is larger than any single national franchise.

Pacific Union has 14 residential sales offices serving San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Contra Costa and Alameda counties. Learn more about Pacific Union by calling (800) 678-7872 or visit our web site at www.pacificunion.com

Agents find February truly 'Realtor appreciation month'

By Marie Alison
REAL ESTATE & HOME SALES MANAGER

Hills Newspapers Real estate advertising launched Realtor Appreciation Month in February to great success — The first-place winner of a 1/4 page real estate ad is Grazina Bivins, Prudential-California Realty, the second-place place winner of a 3x5 ad is Teri Carlisle, Pacific Union; and the third-place winner of a 2x4 ad is Tom Evans, Coldwell Banker Bartels in Pinole. Congratulations to all lucky winners, and thank you to all who participated... The Grubb Company announced that Anjan Petit Tunney and Angela Grubb were their top producers in 1998 — way to sell! Erik Johnson of Montclair Prudential California Realty made a donation to the Cerebral Palsy Foundation from his sales during his "Season of Giving" ad campaign — thank you and keep up the good work. Carole Berger of the Prudential California Realty Piedmont Office is now handling international relocation from that office... Ollie Hammerel, Prudential California-Montclair office, long-time associate, Hiller Highland Agent and neighbor is moving to Arizona — she will be sorely missed... We also just heard from long-time Oakland Realtor Valerie Pritchard, who has recently joined the Frank Howard Allen office in Sausalito — best wishes, Valerie... "Mac" McCulloch, Prudential California-Grand Lake Office announces more talented top producers for the last half of 1998: honors to John Bell, Mavina Chess, Rhonda Drakeford, Lisa Friedman, Sandra Porter, Darrin Tinsley, Richard Matus, Adrienne Nash, Damon Terry, and Dolores Thom... Prudential California Realty-Berkeley office 1998 top producers honors go to Warwick May and Candice Economides, Barbara Hopper, Ana and Pascal Forest, Wendy Kashiwa and Mercer Hahn, Arlene Baxter,

Norah Brower, Janet Kaplan, Kathleen Crandall, Hideko Winans and Graham Carter... Prudential California Realty Piedmont-California Office salutes The Glass-Scabine Team, Nancy Hinkley, Chris Nedderesen, Claire Cunningham, Candace Benney, Rosalie Marshall, Carole Berger, Luna-Miller Associates, Sherri Oakley, Vickie Robinson, Grazina Bivins, Julie Lehman, Miriam Wilson, Cynthia Boze, and Manager Marlene Daniels Bottano... Everyone's listings are flying to escrow, but we heard that Kate Phillips, Wells & Bennett, had 18 offers on one listing!

Let us know what's happening in your office — call Marie Alison at (510) 339-4046.

NEW LISTING!



356 Mountain Avenue, Piedmont

Every elegant detail of this Mediterranean, makes this gracious home truly special. Enjoy Bay views from the lovely master suite, the fireplace in the spacious rumpus room, or the beautiful garden. Four bedrooms, stylish cook's kitchen and spectacular entry hall, all in central Piedmont.

Price Upon Request.
Mindy Scott
(510) 339-0400 or (510) 655-2460
Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

THE GRUBB COMPANY
REALTORS



STEPS TO UC-BERKELEY CAMPUS



1849 Arch Street #A

Luxury level in North Berkeley 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo with private patio. Master bedroom & bath, modern and spacious. Walk to BART, campus, theatres and cafes.

Offered at \$338,000



GRAZINA BIVINS
Top Producer, 1998
(510) 527-8533

Prudential
Real Estate



Montclair Better Homes Realty

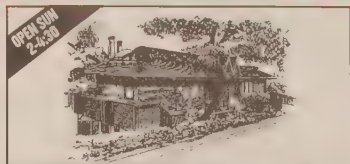
339-4000 / 339-8400

You can find our listings on the Internet,
<http://www.re-bayarea.com>

Attention Homebuyers! Don't even think of buying a home without calling for a free copy of THE HOMEBUYER'S REPORT. For your free copy of the Homebuyer's Report, please call Montclair Better Homes Realty.



WINNING COMBINATION.....\$599,000
Quality, space & sunlight! The combination adds up to wonderful fam home in Montclair; 4BR, 3.5BA, over 3000 sq. ft., fam rm. off kit, formal DR. NAHID NASSIRI 531-1670



IMAGINE SUMMER ON THE DECKS.....\$479,000
Canyon views and French doors from the unusual LR, FDR and very special master BR lead to multi-level decks. Add a granny unit, A-1 condition, and you have a 101 7237 Wild Currant Way.....HAL MARCUS 287-5886



NEW LISTING! HILLTOP SERENITY.....\$279,000
Like to feel on top of it all? You'll love this painted brown shingle, set high above street level & hidden in the trees. 3+BR, 2BA, remodeled kitchen, terraced yard w/patio & hot tub. NAHID NASSIRI 531-1670



1938 CLASSIC TRI-LEVEL.....\$215,000
Sterling 2+BR, 1.5BA in San Leandro's dynamic North area. Formal dining & eat-in kitchen, rumpus rm could be office/entertainment room. EARLE SHEKIN 287-6700

THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES EXCLUSIVELY LISTED. PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT.

ONE YEAR NEW IN BLACKHAWK!.....\$895,000
5BR & sunroom, 3.5BA, 3-car garage. Backs to open space w/ views. Gorgeous yard w/pool, spa, built-in BBQ and play area! Marble entry, light maple kitchen, luxurious master w/marble, view deck! BRENDA McDONALD/ALBERT OLSEN (925) 837-2200

NEW SINGLE STORY CUSTOM HOME!.....\$795,000
Nestled among mature trees on this flat Alamo 1/2 acre, is this beautiful 4BR plus den home. High ceilings! Very elegant! CAROLYN HASTINGS (925) 837-2200

EAST OAKLAND APT. BUILDING.....\$695,000
17 units, high income money maker, needs work, priced at 5.3 G.R.M. Please drive by then call for information. 1967 Seminary / 5809 Harmon. MARK ATTARHA 339-4000

SYCAMORE BEAUTY.....\$479,000
Huge 5BR, 3BA contemporary, Tri-level Danville home w/newer 50 year roof, new carpet & paint. Beautiful cul-de-sac location w/open views. Approx. 2,910 sq. ft., access to private parks, 2 pools, tennis & sports courts. RON GATTI (925) 837-2200

INCOME MACHINE.....\$455,000
Sharp 8 units near Kaiser. Good unit mix. Freshly painted, low maintenance, lots of upside potential. Walk to BART. ARNOLD MUELLER 530-6099

VIEW, VIEW, VIEW.....\$448,000
Do it for! See everything in this 4BR, 4BA contemporary home in Montclair w/ lots of glass, cathedral ceilings, bdrm + den w/bar on 1st level, outside entrance on 3rd level, fantastic master w/sitting area. NAHID NASSIRI 531-1670

UPDATED CLASSIC RANCH.....\$435,000
Seller transferred, must sell this pristine Danville home after adding loads of extras; hardwood floors thru-out, skylight, indirect lighting, updated baths, Anderson wood door leading to large yard w/sparkling pool & built-in BBQ. 3BR, 2BA, 3-car garage, floor plan, great for entertaining. View to Mt. Diablo! SHIRLEY CULLUM (925) 837-2200

GREEN BROOK BEAUTY.....\$435,000
Large single story with 4BR, 2BA, 3-car garage, large family room w/fireplace. Very spacious living room, bedrooms, & breakfast area. Located a half block to community pool & tennis courts in Danville. NORM STANLEY (925) 837-2200

UPCOMING LISTING!.....\$345,000
English Tudor with all of its original details & architectural beauty. 5BR, 2BA, large kitchen. Centrally located in Redwood Heights. NONI ROBINSON 287-2573

JUST LISTED!.....\$299,000
A beautiful tri-plex. One 2BR, 1BA and two 1BR, 1BA. Low maintenance, nice neighborhood. 3 single car garages. A good investment opportunity. Lets make an offer! A.D. NASSIRI 669-5595

THE PERFECT CHANCE.....\$235,000
To enjoy a gorgeous craftsman. Formal dining room, big kitchen, landscaped front and back yard w/white deck. Fine woodwork throughout. NONI ROBINSON 287-2573

EXCELLENT INCOME OPPORTUNITY.....\$225,000
Unbelievable value in this gleaming tri-plex. Modification for care facility includes access for non-ambulatory residents. Great for an entrepreneur. ROSEMARY GREENE 339-4000

WHAT A COMBINATION.....\$219,000
A charming cottage in back w/ a fireplace & front house is huge w/3BR, 1.5BA, but needs a little TLC. Hardwood floors thru-out except rumpus room. NONI ROBINSON 287-2573

CUTE HOME IN EL CERRITO.....\$179,000
With a lot of potential. Located on a quiet street on a corner lot with 2BR, 1BA. Needs a little love and care. PEARL WONG 465-6211

CUSTOM CRAFTSMAN.....\$158,000
Sharp craftsman with lots of built-ins, warm woods & great floor plan. Sunny Kitchen w/level out yard. EZ freeway access. Open Sun. 2-4:30, 3050 Suter. ARNOLD MUELLER 530-6099

LIVE IN ONE, RENT THE OTHER.....\$155,000
Perfect starter home. Fresh paint, new carpet & stove in the front unit. 2BR unit in the back with 2 det gar, close to freeway, schools, bus stops and shops. PEARL WONG 465-6211

NEW LISTING.....\$125,000
Victorian located in up & growing area. 3BR, 1BA contractor special. Needs TLC. ALLIE M. HOLLEY 339-4000

MONTCLAIR LOT!.....\$79,000
Build your custom home in Montclair on this upslope lot! Cambridge Design Group plans available. Priced to sell! CHARLENE CLAYBAUGH 339-4000

WHY RENT?.....\$59,000
You can own this well-kept 1BR, 1BA condo. New paint, pet & tile floor in the kitchen. Secured building w/assigned parking space. PEARL WONG 465-6211

WE ARE EXPANDING OUR MONTCLAIR OFFICE.

We have a few openings for newly licensed Real Estate agents, who want to work as an assist. for a Broker, while you learn the business and get paid. Please call Gloria for an interview, (510) 339-8400.

Weekly Home Sales

Compiled by Bud Gorham
TITLETECH

AMERICA
1000 Bay Vista Ave. - \$415,000
1000 Camelia Dr. - \$309,500
1000 Central Ave. - \$225,000
1000 High St. - \$230,000
1000 Oak Park Dr. - \$285,000
1000 Sweet Rd. - \$260,500
1000 Regent St. - \$215,000
1000 Rosewood Wy. - \$274,000
1000 Sea Ridge Wy. - \$287,000
1000 Sheffield Rd. - \$448,000
1000 Sweet Rd. - \$575,000
1000 Tipperary Ln. - \$506,000

ANY
1000 Carmel Ave. - \$385,000
1000 Curtis St. - \$400,000
1000 Pierce St. #A29 - \$140,000
1000 Polk St. - \$191,000

BELEY
1000 5th St. - \$307,000
1000 Alvarado Rd. - \$740,000
1000 Alvarado Rd. - \$640,000
1000 Blake St. - \$185,000
1000 Browning St. - \$240,000
1000 Derby St. - \$135,000
1000 Derby St. - \$190,000
1000 Francisco St. - \$312,500
1000 Harper St. - \$310,000
1000 Julia St. - \$224,500
1000 Le Conte Ave. #204 - \$145,000
1000 Mabel St. - \$120,000
1000 Milk Jr. Wy. - \$319,000
1000 Northampton Ave. - \$512,000
1000 Sacramento St. - \$289,500
1000 San Lorenzo Ave. - \$425,000
1000 Stuart St. - \$236,000
1000 The Alameda - \$410,000

CORRITO
1000 Arlington Blvd. - \$260,000
1000 Balra Dr. - \$274,000
1000 Cedar St. - \$215,000
1000 Colusa Ave. - \$210,000
1000 Edwards Ave. - \$265,000

SOBRANTE
1000 Canyon Rd. - \$60,000
1000 La Colina Rd. - \$165,500
1000 Patra Dr. - \$250,000
1000 Santa Maria Rd. - \$135,000

LAND
1000 102nd Ave. - \$138,000
1000 36th Ave. - \$117,000
1000 41st Ave. - \$146,000
1000 50th Ave. - \$120,000
1000 58th St. - \$140,000
1000 64th Ave. - \$394,000
1000 78th Ave. - \$95,000
1000 79th Ave. - \$169,500
1000 Admiral Dr. #388 - \$154,000
1000 Admiral Dr. - \$83,000
1000 Alcatraz Ave. - \$111,000
1000 Alvarado Cl. - \$560,000
1000 Aulseon Ave. - \$71,500
1000 Bellevue Ave. #1806 - \$267,000
1000 Blandon Rd. - \$136,000
1000 Broadway Tr. - \$225,000
1000 Brunell Dr. - \$365,000
1000 Caldecott Ln. #355 - \$206,000
1000 California St. - \$290,000
1000 Calmar Ave. - \$199,000
1000 Campus Dr. - \$435,000
1000 Capistrano Dr. - \$92,000
1000 Carberry Ave. - \$287,000
1000 Chabot Rd. - \$285,000
1000 Commodore Dr. #424 - \$103,500
1000 Coolidge Ave. - \$168,000
1000 Deerwood Ave. - \$134,000
1000 Dowling St. - \$112,000
1000 East 19th St. - \$98,000
1000 East 31st St. - \$91,000
1000 East 31st St. - \$81,000
1000 Florida St. - \$229,000
1000 Franklin St. #601 - \$157,500
1000 Granada Ave. - \$90,000
1000 Gravit Dr. - \$730,000
1000 Groveson Pl. - \$346,000
1000 Heritage - \$225,000
1000 Hughes Ave. - \$135,000
1000 Laurel Ave. - \$232,000
1000 Leimert Blvd. - \$930,000
1000 Logan St. - \$122,000
1000 MacArthur Blvd. - \$121,000

TERE
李麗珠
814-4840 or
810-6735 pgr.
Harbor Bay Realty

YOUNG HAY FAT CHOY

LISTING 1229 CORAL REEF
- OPEN SAT. & SUN. 2-4. Lovely
3BD 2BA home. On a large lot

LALE AVE. 2.20 1 BA New ext
\$182,000

LALE OPT Hair salon all equip. inc.

LALE AVE. 1.80 1 BA
\$182,000

LALE AVE. 1.80 1 BA
\$182,000

LALE AVE. 1.80 1 BA
\$182,000

LALE AVE. 1.80 1 BA
\$182,000

LALE AVE. 1.80 1 BA
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LALE AVE. 1.80 1 BA
\$182,000

LALE AVE. 1.80 1 BA
\$182,000

LALE AVE. 1.80 1 BA
\$182,000

LALE AVE. 1.80 1 BA
\$182,000

6212 Manoa St. - \$570,000
3875 Market St. - \$144,500
6311 Monadnock Wy. - \$129,000
7570 Mountain Blvd. #5 - \$132,000
8356 Outlook Ave. - \$180,000
961 Park Ln. - \$365,000
129 Regu Rd. - \$727,000
3008 School St. - \$126,000
12700 Skyline Blvd. - \$640,000
4365 Steele St. - \$195,000
735 Stratford Rd. - \$255,000
2350 Thackeray Dr. - \$349,000
5835 Thornhill Dr. - \$145,000
1678 Trestle Glen Rd. - \$350,000
38 Turtle Creek St. - \$229,000
119 Villanova Dr. - \$250,000
314 Wildwood Ave. - \$729,000
1 Woodcrest Cl. - \$269,000
1943 Wrenn St. - \$340,000

RICHMOND

612 19th St. - \$106,000
741 39th St. - \$92,000
673 40th St. - \$142,500
552 5th St. - \$115,000
2435 Andrade Ave. - \$132,000
1621 Aqua Vista Rd. - \$165,000
1801 Brookside Dr. - \$124,500
5204 Burlingame Ave. - \$139,000
10 Coleen Ct. - \$79,000
1915 Costa Ave. - \$156,000
6804 Del Monte Ave. - \$100,000
63 Greenview Ln. - \$129,000
1307 Greenway Dr. - \$179,000
2806 Greenwood Dr. - \$130,500
4546 Gregory Wy. - \$185,000
6252 Highland Ave. - \$180,000
6108 Huntington Ave. - \$165,000
708 Lassen St. - \$123,000
5220 MacDonald Ave. - \$180,000
3550 May Rd. - \$219,000
5420 McBryde Ave. - \$126,000
1203 Melville Square #215 - \$93,500
805 Ocean Ave. - \$555,000
1125 Road #20 - \$130,000
35 Roland Ct. - \$205,500
3130 Serene Ct. - \$206,500
2822 Shane Dr. - \$210,000
346 South 35th St. - \$100,000
431 South 36th St. - \$122,000
535 South 47th St. - \$120,000
3012 Stephen Dr. - \$180,500
4612 Wildwood Ct. - \$230,000

SAN LEANDRO

1779 140th Ave. - \$198,000
15351 Andover St. - \$168,000
787 Arthur Ave. - \$106,000
3733 Avansino St. - \$170,000
2195 Bradhoff Ave. - \$197,000
1720 Burkhardt Ave. - \$232,000

ON AVERAGE

■ ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 12
LOWEST SALES: \$215,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$575,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$335,833

■ ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST SALES: \$140,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$400,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$279,000

■ BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 18
LOWEST SALES: \$120,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$750,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$319,472

■ EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST SALES: \$210,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$274,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$244,800

■ EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST SALES: \$60,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$250,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$152,625

■ OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 61
LOWEST SALES: \$71,500
HIGHEST SALES: \$930,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$246,155

■ RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 32
LOWEST SALES: \$79,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$555,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$160,015

■ SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 19
LOWEST SALES: \$95,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$334,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$203,184

■ SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 2
AVERAGE SALES: \$161,500

NEW ALBANY LISTING
Open Sunday February 28 • 2-4:30



1085 NELSON ST.
Immaculate 3++ bedrooms, 2 baths home built by C.M. MacGregor and nicely updated by long time owners. Very friendly street in best Albany location near wonderful Terrace Park. Walk to schools, Solano Ave. and Monterey Market

Offered at: \$299,000

URY BEARY
527-0545
RE/MAX Bay Area

Subscribe: 339-4040

Real Estate Advertising: 339-4046

WELLS & BENNETT REALTORS
531-7000

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00 - 4:30 P.M.

10 DOROTHY PL. \$798,000
Incredible new home with Mt. Tam and Golden Gate views. 5+ bedrooms, 4 full baths, superb quality, warm finishes. Excellent floor plan. Quiet cul-de-sac in prestigious Claremont Hills. Mary Neuberger 530-4148

818 MCKINLEY \$249,500
Immaculate 1920 2+BD w/loads of charm on great street. Gorgeous remodeled kit, formal dining w/built-ins, hwdw flrs, and beautiful, tiled flpl in LR. Huge MBR w/floor-to-ceiling windows overlooks lovely, level bkyd. Lovingly maintained. Don Dunning 482-2256

238 SHERIDAN \$629,000
Upper Rockridge new construction 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths including 2 master suites, spacious kitchen, large family room, formal dining room and living room. Beautifully crafted marble & granite counters, maple cabinets and hardwood floors. Room for expansion. Large level back yard. Carol Robbiano/Jaya Bhimani ext. 289

SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT

ARCHITECTURAL SOPHISTICATION \$549,000
Exciting new Bay view home in Montclair. Bright, open spaces, innovative design, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, office, "Great Room" main level. Peter & Ellen Nicolopoulos 339-9780

NEW LISTING \$325,000
Off Lincoln, three plus bedroom, 3 bath, living room with fireplace and vaulted ceiling over 2,200 sq. ft. Built 1979, 2-car garage, great rear yard. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

MOVE IN CONDITION \$275,000
Wonderful home near good schools, transportation and shopping. Beautiful hardwood floors, eat-in-kitchen, lovely front yard and back patio. Carol Robbiano ext. 292

LAND
TEN RESIDENTIAL LOTS \$1,200,000
Dream infill package in established Oakland Hill area P.U.D. some Bay views, gentle topography. Much site development and utility work already done. Peter Nicolopoulos 339-9780

TWO ADJACENT LOTS \$390,000/\$430,000
With large, building pads, cul-de-sac location, area of Million Dollar homes, preliminary building plans. Chris Christensen ext. 242

ALMOST ONE ACRE \$449,000
Bay and Contra Costa view. Nearly level on Grizzly Peak Blvd., Oakland. One of a kind property. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

NEARLY ONE ACRE \$107,000
San Francisco Bay view, near Chabot golf course, Oakland Hills. Includes building plans. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

INCOME
REHABED VICTORIAN DUPLEX \$369,000
Nicely redone duplex on a quiet street. Upper unit 3BD/2BA, lower unit 4BD/2BA. Michael Childress ext. 215

LOWER TEMESCAL INCOME PROPERTY \$265,000 ea.
Matched set of four-plexes. 1 and 2 bedroom units, hardwood floors, carpets, buy one or the pair. Stan Hammond ext. 346

COMMERCIAL BUILDING \$150,000
Corner exposure on Seminary near MacArthur Blvd. Includes garage equipment. Great locale for auto-shop/tune up. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

1451 LEIMERT BLVD., OAKLAND
• LAKE TAHOE 1-800-858-2463 Vacation Rentals/Sales
• WALNUT CREEK (925) 938-8484
<http://www.wellsandbennett.com>

PROFESSIONALISM AND PROGRESS SINCE 1924 - A FAMILY TRADITION.

1029 Cumberland Ave. - \$190,000
946 Dowling Blvd. - \$173,000
1308 East Juana Ave. - \$290,000
629 Freesia Ct. - \$260,000
548 Lafayette Ave. - \$184,500
894 Lewelling Blvd. #19 - \$95,000
1332 Margery Ave. - \$194,000
437 Nabor St. - \$155,000
2228 Oceanside Wy. - \$334,000
1515 Peters St. - \$165,000
1460 San Jose St. - \$252,000
15922 Wellington Wy. - \$240,000
844 Woodland Ave. - \$257,000

SAN LORENZO

733 Hacienda Ave. - \$138,000
888 Linnea Ave. - \$185,000

This list was compiled for publication in the Hills Newspapers by TitleTech of Oakland which obtains weekly records from the county recorder's office. Neither company guarantees accuracy or completeness of the information.

Sales prices are estimated based upon applicable county transfer taxes.

All questions regarding this information and any requests for additional listings and services provided by TitleTech should be directed to Bud Gorham at (510) 568-7233.

A RARE OPPORTUNITY



5321 GOLDEN GATE AVE., UPPER ROCKRIDGE
Offered at \$895,000

A 1925 Spanish Colonial Revival designed by John Galen Howard sited on almost 1/2 acre. 4++BR/2+BA. Original architecture plus tasteful remodel.

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30 YEAR TERM APR 7.251 (720 FICO Score) or add .25. Min. 5% Down

Credit Line 5.99 to 100% of Value
APR 12.023

15 YEAR APR 11.955, 100% LTV 5.99 to 100K

6.990% Equity Line to \$250,000

No Income or Asset Verification
6.875% Fixed for 2 Years, 5% DOWN TO 300K, 10% Down to \$400,000
20% Down to 500K, 25% Down to \$650,000
Good Credit required, NO PMI! 30 Year Term - APR 8.213%

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Each house tells its own story — and inspires poetry

#271 in a series of true experiences in real estate.

I'm not a poet. I try, but I just don't seem to have the knack. Often when I'm looking for words to describe a house we've listed, I read poetry, usually children's poetry. I'm hoping to find something someone else wrote that I can use for my new house flyer, words that will express the feelings I have about this particular house.

Or, if not that, perhaps I'll find words that will inspire me to write my own description.

Children's poetry especially charms me. I like the rhythms. They can click along like snappy little songs, percussive and orderly. I respond to the beat. Or, with those that are soft and soothing, my mood becomes dreamy, peaceful.

Unfortunately, I don't find many poems written about houses.

Poets have waxed enthusiastic about flowers and all kinds of animals. They've gone on and on about weather, especially the wind and the rain. But words that suggest the warmth and coziness of home, the security of roof overhead, windows looking to the world outside, food in the larder, fire on the hearth are, it seems to me, surprisingly few.

And so I resort to writing my own. When what I want is to try to tell others, agents and buyers, what is good about a particular house, what kinds of things will make it home for someone new, I frequently use poetry.

Last fall, for instance, we listed a house on Indian Rock Avenue in Berkeley. It's a lovely old house built in the 1920s.

Elsewhere on the flyer we gave out to potential buyers, I described the paneling, the polished floors and, of course, the number of bedrooms and baths. But because this house is adjacent to a small park and this proximity is an advantage and a unique feature of this house, I began the flyer with a short poem about the rock which I titled "Quiet Neighbor."

Try climbing a rock — It's good for you. Try it. You'll find when you do, there's more pep in your step. And you won't feel blue. It's true.

It's not very good poetry, but I had fun writing it, and it does suggest why

True experiences

By Tarpoff and Talbert

It would be nice to live next door to a large rock. At least, I hope it does. While the buyers were looking at the house during the Sunday open house, their kids were having a great time climbing around on the rock.

I wrote a different sort of verse for my mother's house when it was put up for sale after she died. I thought for a long while about what my mother loved about living in her little house on the hill in El Cerrito, what a new owner would probably

clasp to heart, before writing this:
fresh and sweet this little house
up on a hill
quiet here and warm, sun all day
soft breezes, singing birds
on the hill
green gardens above the bay
few cares upon the hill

These words were printed in lower case letters with the line length and spacing providing the only punctuation and the background was washed in sky blue.

Did the buyers buy the house because of the flyer? I doubt it. But did they see the house differently than before when they'd read the words? Maybe they did.

My most successful poem was a song that I wrote for an Albany house flyer last year. Under the heading "Singing in Albany" was a small sketch of the house. It was followed by the song title, "The Ramona Rock" and a

note: "Sung to the tune of 'Personality.'"

OH...she's got flex-i-bil-i-ty,
space...a-dap-ta-bil-i-ty...charm, ver-
sa-til-i-ty...light...dance-ability, fun...
prac-ti-cal-i-ty...style, walk-a-bil-i-ty...
Plus she's got an extra roo-oo-oom!

The chorus followed:
Over and over...you'll see she is
for you. Over and over...close to
the a-ve-nue.

We really had fun with this one. Quite a few people who came to see the house on Sunday picked up the flyer, realized that it was a song on the front, then hummed the tune. Some stood right where they were and sang all the funny words. We laughed and encouraged them to sing to the end. A couple of times, we sang too.

We have a new listing in El Cer-

rito which I've been writing about. It's a good house, exceptionally clean, and so well laid out that within its modest proportions, three bedrooms and two baths are contained and function beautifully. Most of all, this house feels good inside.

Homeplace. Here's a place to lay your head, a place to put your bed. Space that is clean and warm, a place to come in from out of the

storm. Room for family and to sleep. For tables and chairs and eat. A clean, clean place. Everything. And everything clean, clean place.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpoff are licensed agents and area specialists who also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. They can be reached at (510) 653-2000.

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6045 Estates Drive, Oakland

Located in the Piedmont side of Montclair, this light-filled Traditional home has been meticulously updated from top to bottom. Features include a master suite with fireplace, secluded patio, terraced garden, formal room adjacent to kitchen and spacious rear deck.

Offered at \$609,000

Karen Starr
(510) 339-0400 Ext. 211

Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed

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5 elegant 2 bedroom garden apartments on one of Berkeley's most desirable streets. 2 units to be delivered vacant. Shown by appointment only.

Gini Erick, ext. 133\$1,100,000



ADJACENT TO U.C.!

Absolutely grand! Legally 3 units, this historic brown shingle, designed by Coxhead, enjoys great Bay views! There's a large artist's studio and terraced gardens, waiting for the ultimate restoration. As is.

Bebe McRae, ext. 145\$700,000



845 EUCLID

Panoramic views of San Francisco and Bridge. Spanish. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Small yard.

Jack McPhail, ext. 135\$455,000



2335 EUNICE

2 vacant units. 2+ bedroom.

Jack McPhail, ext. 135\$395,000



NORTH BERKELEY

Designed by Walter Steilberge in 1924, this elegant property features a library, study, garage and landscaped garden. Shown by appointment only.

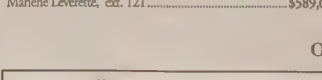
Susie Schell, ext. 144\$850,000



GREENWOOD COMMONS

4BR/3BA + bonus rooms. Contemporary home designed to cohesively blend with Berkeley's beautiful native landscape. Tremendous possibilities here!

Ruth Frassetto, ext. 147\$490,000



HANDSOME NORTH BERKELEY CRAFTSMAN

3BR/2.5BA craftsman has spectacular Bay views and an in-law unit. The cook's kitchen opens with French doors to the patio & garden. Sitting in the hot tub, one can watch the deer, yet it's just a short walk to Chez Panisse or the University!

Marlene Leverette, ext. 121\$589,000



6 UNITS WALK TO CAMPUS

2472-76 Virginia. 1 bedroom, 1 bath.

Jack McPhail, ext. 135\$665,000



20 WOODSIDE - OPEN SUN. 2-4

NEW PRICE! Above the soaring eagles with the San Francisco Bay at your feet! This very sophisticated custom built home is just minutes from Berkeley, Orinda or Montclair. Master suite plus 4BR, 3 full baths, formal dining room, gourmet kitchen/family room, garage with interior access.

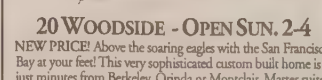
Bebe McRae, ext. 145\$950,000



200 CALDECOTT LANE #307 OPEN SUN. 2-4

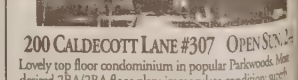
Lovely top floor condominium in popular Parkwoods. Most desired 2BA/2BA floor plan; immaculate condition; superb amenities include pool, gym, sauna, security gate, covered parking (2 spaces) & LOCATION!

Tricia Swift, ext. 140\$240,000



3239 KEMPTON. Unconventional living space in converted Tudor school building!

Beautiful loft! Leslie Enderday ext. 134\$100,000



BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL! Bay views and excellent updating make this charming home a rare opportunity!

3BR/2BA, large master suite and yard, Kensington School District! Bebe McRae, ext. 145\$425,000

3239 KEMPTON. Unconventional living space in converted Tudor school building! Beautiful loft! Leslie Enderday ext. 134\$100,000

BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL! Bay views and excellent updating make this charming home a rare opportunity! 3BR/2BA, large master suite and yard, Kensington School District! Bebe McRae, ext. 145\$425,000

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644-5482, 428-0900

STUNNING VIEWS.....\$834,000

4BD/3+BA Mstr suite w/view, fam rm, gourmet kit. Too many upgrades to list.
Gene Boomer 869-4202

COMING SOON IN

SOUGHT OUT.....\$589,000

Alameda Harbor Bay area. 5BD/3BA. Move-in cond, 2-story 2,500+ sq. ft. Call for private showing.
Mark Goode 464-1309



EAST BAY VIEWS • \$549,000

Gorgeous views from LR/DR and mstr BR. Like new 4BR/2.5BA contemporary. Maple flrs, frpic, vaulted ceil, quality work.
Julie Nachtwey 845-0211

SPACIOUS, WOODY HOME.....\$449,000

5+BD/3BA, hdwd flrs thruout. Decks, family room, wonderful neighborhood. 6808 Chambers.

Pascal & Ana Forest 273-9332, 845-0200

RUGE MONTCLAIR

HOME.....\$445,000

5BD/3BA. Lots of space in this wooded home. Decks, fam rm & a great area. 7075 Exeter Dr.

Pascal & Ana Forest 273-9332, 845-0200

EXQUISITE CONDO.....\$159,000

Sunny spacious 2BD/2BA W/D in unit, fireplace, great layout, close to shops & fwy. New paint, must see.

Marius Duval 869-4788, 845-0200

* TEMESCAL

BUNGALOW.....\$142,000

Tree-lined Manila 2BD/1BA. Charm. Open Sun 2-4. N. Platford 845-0200

ATTIC LOFT W/DECK.....\$135,000

Oakland 2BD/1BA bungalow. Fresh paint in/out attic loft w/deck.

Edwina Taylor 869-2329, 845-0200

BERKELEY

COMING SOON!

A WOW!.....\$799-850K

4BD/3.5BA + Sunset rm, phenomenal views, loc. on 1 acre. Claremont Hills, Berkeley address, Oakland taxes!

Susan Ellison 287-8818, 845-0200



* NEW LISTING! CLASSIC

1916 CRAFTSMAN! • \$335,000

3BD/1BA near North Berkeley shops! Spacious flr plan, lovely features! Close to parks, schools.

Carol Jakobson 849-3711, 527-3494

* CASA DE Suenos..\$649,000

Lovely dream! Bay views murals thruout, gdn decks, and updated kit. Open Sun 1-5. 40 San Mateo.

Candice 273-9024

WARWICK 273-9048, 845-0200

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'..\$250,000

1BD/1BA. Front and back unit, sep. entry, frpl, full bsmt, dry hook-ups, backyard fruit trees.

Cynthia 869-5397, 845-0200

NINTH & ADDISON

CONDO.....\$131,500

Close to 4th St. dining & shopping. New paint, new carpets, new gas stove & new refrigerator. Remodeled bath.

Ceramic tile floors, kit & bath.

N Shima 273-9387, 845-0200

WEST COUNTY

IN THE HILLS.....\$475,000

Very special El Cerrito home offers space, privacy and views. 3BD plus "in-law" space.

Anna M. Lei 236-9357, 527-9800

MOVE-IN CONDITION.....\$249,000

4BD/2BA Freshly painted home near BART/shops! Large LR & dining area, hardwood floors, garage.

Liz Day 286-7697, 849-3711

LIVE/WORK

COMMERCIAL.....\$239,900

Large commercial bldg. plus 3BD home on 1 lot. Near new San Pablo Int'l Market. Great potential.

Sharon Brown 466-5102, 527-9800

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Do you dare to buy 10 lots in Oakland's tri-park area.

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Baby's room requires thoughtful planning

By Eileen Halliburton
When you are making plans for your new baby's arrival and you've gotten down to placing your grandmother's rocking chair in the baby's room. And your mother-in-law has promised to let you borrow her crib. You may plan to use as much of the old furniture as possible. You may plan to use as much of the old furniture as possible. You may plan to use as much of the old furniture as possible.

window. What a lovely spot to rock your baby, either by day or by night. As the baby gets older you can share the view. If the corner is not near a window, make the corner cozy and inviting by placing a table and lamp nearby with one or two pieces of juvenile art.

Balance the furniture

To balance this room place the bureau or changing table (one of the larger pieces of furniture) opposite the crib.

When you hang pictures relate them to the furniture. Center that cute animal print over the bureau or the table you have by the chair. Don't let pictures float in space.

Remember to hang something soft, such as a quilt or fabric art, over the crib and changing table.

If you have lots of stuffed animals and toys for your baby, find a simple bookcase and arrange the animals and toys in it. As the child grows, you will be able to gradually replace toys with books.

Sort toys and knickknacks into categories. Place the silver bank and fine porcelain Beatrix Potter figurine in one spot, the primitive wooden toys in another and the brightly colored plastic toys in another.

Choose colors carefully

else will fall into place.

Choose colors carefully

Try to keep the colors in the room the same intensity — either all pastels or all primary colors. If the window coverings, bed linens and art are the same intensity everything

else will fall into place.

Eileen Halliburton is the owner of Re-Designs in Piedmont and can be reached at (510) 763-1829.

NEW LISTING! CHURCH

Stunning, dramatic church sanctuary near Piedmont, plus fellowship room with fireplace and full kitchen facilities. Shared use agreement @ \$3,750 per month.

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3052 Sylvan Avenue

Charming two bedroom bungalow in a park-like setting. Lovingly maintained. Large yard for the gardener. Don't miss!

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5566 GOLDEN GATE.....ROCKRIDGE.....4-BD/3+BA.....\$849,950.....RUTH LOCKHART
1390 38TH AVENUE.....OAKLAND.....2BD/1BA.....\$129,000.....JOAN ALFORD

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CLAREMONT PINES.....\$1,095,000
Outstanding newer home. 4BD/3.5BA. Sophisticated Mediterranean, magical courtyard, unsurpassed landscaping. **James Duffy**

PIEDMONT - SPECTACULAR VIEW.....\$527,000
Ranch style, level-in 2+BD/2.5BA, den, rumpus, front patio, back deck, hardwood floors. View of S.F., Bay & bridges. **Norm Robinow**

BAKE FIND.....\$465,000
The best Montclair combination of stunning Bay view and level yard. Plus 2 fireplaces, hardwood floors, hot tub, and more. 3BD/2BA. **Dell Orr**

PIEDMONT CUTIE.....\$399,000
This 3BD/1.5BA home has a new view and a yard! There is a formal dining rm, fireplace, recreation rm, new kitchen, hardwood floors **Nancy Dickey**

PIEDMONT PINES VIEW HOME.....\$364,000
Gorgeous views, sophisticated contemporary style, generous decks & a Piedmont Pines location invite you. 3BD/2BA "4" features. **Rachel Baller**

NEW LISTING.....\$299,000
Cabin in Montclair w/ filtered Bay views. 3BD/1.5BA on large lot. Pretend you're in Tahoe every day! **Lynne Bantle**

WINE VINTAGE.....\$299,000
Beautiful oak floors, built-ins, formal dining, 3BD/2BA plus den. Pretty yard, big garage, base-ment, nice neighborhood **Rachel Baller**

SPACIOUS CONDO.....\$86,000
Coast building, fresh paint & new carpet. Walk to Piedmont Ave. Parking. 1BD/1BA. **Marilyn Bremser**

BRAND NEW VILLA.....\$850,000
Magnificent Italian villa in the Montclair setting beautifully landscaped and luxuriously appointed Bay views. **Fritz Hochfeller**

FABULOUS HILLER TOWNHOUSE.....\$389,000
Spacious light & airy 3BD/2.5BA with beautiful views! 2 fireplaces, separate master, built-in car garage **James Duffy**

PIEDMONT PINES CHARM.....\$375,000
Stunning remodel of 1920s home with fabulous kitchen, 2+BD/2.5BA plus office, lg family rm, decks overlook woods. **Marilyn Bremser**

VIEW! UPPER OAKMORE.....\$359,000
Wonderful 3-BR/2.5BA in desirable Oakmore. Great view, hardwood floors, 3 room & garden. **Terry Kulka**

MONTCLAIR TRADITIONAL.....\$295,000
Level-in, level-out 3-BR/2.5BA with family room. Corner lot. 3BD/2BA with master suite. **Jack Brenneman**

PENTHOUSE VIEW.....\$499,000
Without the lower floor, this Montclair contemp. is perfect for an extended family, huge bay view, decks, shows like a dream **Fritz Hochfeller**

A SPECIAL PIEDMONT HOME.....\$499,000
Just reduced! Large 3-BR/2.5BA with formal with fireplace, FDR + breakfast room, sunny rooms, den, plus yard to play in. **Adrienne Broche**

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1679 ADDISON.....BERKELEY.....3BR/2BA.....\$269,000.....DAVE MOSS
1610 CEDAR.....BERKELEY.....3BR/1+BA.....\$295,000.....DAKI VENETOULIS
1139 GILMAN.....BERKELEY.....3BR/2BA.....\$295,000.....LUCY AMENTROUT-MA
1175 KEITH.....BERKELEY.....2BR/1BA.....\$375,000.....CANDACE HYDE-WANG

BY APPOINTMENT • 486-1495

BERKELEY • KENSINGTON • ALBANY • EL CERRITO • RICHMOND

EL CERRITO 4-PLEX WITH SF VIEWS.....\$495,000
3BR/2BA owner's unit full of sunlight with deck. Others are sweet, 2BR/1BA units. Well located near shopping, restaurants and transportation.

CHARMING NORTHBRAE BUNGALOW.....\$365,000
REDUCED \$34,000! 1.5BA to piano shops & restaurants. 3BR/1.5BA, split-level floor plan, built-ins. Large fenced yard. Wood flrs under carpet, new roof. **SOLD**

HUGE BAY VIEWS FROM EL CERRITO.....\$399,000
Fabulous views from this fantastic fixer in the El Cerrito hills. Level in, level out, 3 bath home with family room, formal dining, breakfast room and hardwood floors. Plus decks and patio. **SOLD**

MEDITERRANEAN LAKESHORE 4-PLEX.....\$398,000
JUST LISTED! Handsome 4-plex in popular neighborhood, a few blocks to the Grand Lake Theater. 2BR, 2BA penthouse plus 3 charming studios & 3 garages. Walk to shopping, restaurants & transportation.

BERKELEY HILLS TAHOE STYLE CONTEMPORARY.....\$395,000
Gorgeous wooded, creekside setting. Striking open floorplan with 2 loft-style bedrooms, 1 bath. Picture windows with some Golden Gate view, decks and 2-car garage. A must see!

BERKELEY BUNGALOW.....\$295,000
Good location near shops & transportation! 3+BR/1.25BA, well maintained. Garden is lovely with connections for a hot tub. Deck. Potential for home office!

POPULAR WESTBRAE.....\$275,000
Large lot completely fenced! 3BR/1BA home. Plenty of rm for cars to park. New kitchen & bath. Laundry. Patio & lawn. Walk to Jimmy Bean & Toot Sweets!

CENTRALLY LOCATED IN BERKELEY.....\$269,000
JUST LISTED! Walk to 2 BART stations, downtown Berkeley & UC! Remodeled kitchen with plenty of space, hwd flrs, fireplace, 3BR/1BA. Extra large garage with room for workshop

SUPERB NORTHSIDE CONDO.....\$269,000
JUST LISTED! Special 2 story design in classic 1920's Northside building. 2BR/1BA & a "plus" room for office/guests. Hardwood floors, beamed ceiling, views. Garage & storage. Walk to UC, shops & restaurants. **SOLD**

CUTE ALBANY MACGREGOR.....\$239,000
JUST LISTED! Darling 2 bedroom with formal dining, hardwood floors, fireplace and garage. Lovely yard with lemon trees, pine trees, rose arbor and loads of sunshine. **SOLD**

BRILLIANT CONDITION IN RICHMOND VIEW.....\$229,500
JUST LISTED! Lovely home in desirable Richmond View. 3BR, formal dining, quality custom eat-in kitchen, remodeled bathroom and elegant marble fireplace. Large lot with partial North Bay views & 2 car garage. **SOLD**

CONTRACTOR'S SPECIAL IN ALBANY.....\$199,900
Very large level lot, approx. 5600 sq. ft. New roof, some electrical upgrading, orig. hardwood floors throughout. 2BR/1BA. Convenient to schools, shops, transportation.

VIEWS OF DOWNTOWN OAKLAND AND HILLS.....\$149,000
Lovely, spacious 2BR, south-facing unit with loads of sunlight. Remodeled kitchen and bath, with fireplace and balcony. Heated pool and underground parking. **SOLD**

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Bassett

FROM PAGE C2

will pay more. This is especially true when the winter market approaches.

When you, as a seller, have to compete with maybe three out of every ten houses on the market being influenced by a corporate relocation, it can make your home more difficult to sell.

Also, many corporations will spend significant sums to make the homes be as cosmetically appealing as possible. It is not unusual for a corporation to go in and totally reface and recarpet one of their homes.

Although buyers say they may want to fix up a house, they typically want something they can move right into — especially when they are paying the prices homes command in the East Bay hills.

Another factor that affects our market place is when a large corporation decides to move its corporate headquarters or consolidate large numbers of staff to another part of the country.

Oakland is fortunate in that, because it and the rest of the Bay Area are the bases of so many dynamic corpora-

"Although buyers say they may want to fix up a house, they typically want something they can move right into — especially when they are paying the prices homes command in the East Bay hills."

tions, large outgoing group moves do not hit the tax base as hard as a similar move would have in a smaller area. Conversely, our metropolitan area has benefited from and continues to be the recipient of many corporate relocations.

For example, in 1998, SBC Communications brought many transferees into the area after their acquisition of Pacific Bell. Such gains bring new buyers into our market all the time.

By staying abreast of the area's corporate real estate/relocation market, Oakland hills home sellers can make the best decisions as to how to and when to best market their homes to realize the best price and terms.

Conrad Bassett, CRP is Vice President and Director of Operations for AmeriCorp Relocation Management in Walnut Creek. He can be reached at (925) 377-7356.

Pearman

FROM PAGE C3

spend the \$30,000 it would take to make the house presentable and sellable. Nevertheless, they did.

What they got for their \$30,000 was one offer made even before the house was listed for close to their full asking price and then, once the house was listed, even higher offers.

It sold the first week that it was offered, and for \$11,000 more than the listing price.

If they had not done all of the work, they would have been lucky to get any offers, and they would definitely have had to accept a significantly lower sales price.

Speculator licks out

Contrast this transaction with the sale of another older home.

When the owner was forced to move to a skilled nursing facility and there were no relatives to arrange for fixing up the house for sale, a real estate speculator bought the house for a very low price and a resultant lower profit for the disabled owner.

"No amount of paint or kitchen and bathroom updating could hide this glaring defect. The owner would have to spend \$200,000 just to install a new foundation and relevel the house."

He spent \$70,000 on a new roof, kitchen and baths, painting inside and out, a new foundation, and minor landscaping, servicing the debt during the fixing up.

When the house was sold to the person making the highest of the many offers after the repairs had been completed, the speculator made quite a tidy profit.

Apparently, this speculator had been doing this very thing for the last 12 years, and was doing just fine.

This same real estate speculator called me in to look at an older home in the Berkeley hills.

Apparently, this was an estate sale and the house was only going to be held open for a few hours.

Maintenance-challenged property has potential

He had also called some other contractors who had worked with him in

the past, so there were a bunch of us crawling around the house, trying to figure out what it would cost to rehabilitate the charming but definitely maintenance-challenged property in order to reap his usual tidy profit. All that I could see was that the entire house was sloping down to a large river-rock fireplace.

Nothing can hide defect

No amount of paint or kitchen and bathroom updating could hide this glaring defect. The owner would have to spend \$200,000 just to install a new foundation and relevel the house. This house was beyond the means of even this speculator.

There's a payoff

Jack, my Realtor friend, believes that easily half of the older homes

that he sees in his market were updated and staged.

You may not want to be a real estate speculator, but you definitely wish to maximize in selling your house.

Your Realtor should be able to advise you about what doing this entails for your house.

Don Pearman is a contributing author of "The Termites Home: How to Save Your Home from Pests, Rot and Earthquakes" (dress questions to 2001 Howe Ave., Oakland, CA 94612, (510) 530-9444 Fax: (510) 530-9455).



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6120 MAZUELA DR., Exquisitely designed! New custom 5/4.5 w/SF \$990,000 & bay vw. Fam rm adj to gourmet kit w/patio access. GRUBB Co, Melitta 339-0400

20 WOODSIDE, New Price! Mstr suite + 4/3. FDR, gourmet kit/family \$950,000 room. Garage w/interior access. Templeton Co, Bebe McCrae 652-2133 X145 2-4

6291 RUTLAND RD, Montclair. Stunning new 4bd/3+ba trad! w/ \$925,000 pano views. Convenient location. Quality. Pacific Union, Helen Danahall 547-5750

35 CONTRA COSTA PL, Rockledge. 4+bd/2.5ba w/pano bay & city \$895,000 views! FDR and family room. LaSalle Properties, Helen Nicholas 339-8900

5560 GOLDEN GATE, Rockledge. New. Spacious grounds. Front \$849,950 courtyard. 3-car gar. 4+/3+. Gourmet kit. Coldwell Banker, Ruth Lockhart 339-1174

638 GRAVATT DR, Claremont Hills. 5bd/3+ba. Dramatic & spacious. \$849,000 2 yr contemp w/ bay & hill vws. Fam rm & den. Pacific Union, Dick Cohen 339-6460

6173 SWAINLAND RD, Montclair. 3bd/3ba. Redwood Palace! \$799,000 Luxury! 3940 sq. ft. Unique features. Spa. Legal in-law unit. Roy Poczick RE Broker 654-3457

10 DOROTHY PL, Claremont Hills. New 5+4 w/Mt Tam & GG vws! \$798,000 Quality! On cul-de-sac, Wells & Bennett, Mary Neuberger 530-4148

911 AQUARIUS WAY, Montclair. Beautiful 5bd/3+ba new h/warm \$775,000 finishes. Kitchen/family rm, office, level yd. Pacific Union, Joanna Gould 339-6460

11 HAWKS HILL, Hiller Highlands. NEW LISTING! Smashing 3/2+ \$639,000 custom twins. 4-bridge views. Luxury finishes. Private patio. Large lot. Pacific Union, Dee Knowland 339-6460

238 SHERIDAN, Upper Rockledge. New 4/3.5 (2 mstr suites) lg family \$629,000 room, formal DR & LR, spacious kitchen, hwd flrs. Wells & Bennett 531-7000 X289

6186 MAZUELA DR, Smashing 2 yr old contemp. Quality! View! \$625,000 5/3 w/family rm, rumpus, & fab kitchen! GRUBB Co, Sandra Vogl 339-0400

6045 ESTATES DR, Fab top to bottom remodel 4/3 w/EIK, family rm. \$609,000 FDR, formal LR w/cathedral ceiling & vw. GRUBB Co, Karen Starr 339-0400

7085 EXETER DR, Montclair. 3+bd/2.5 ba. Gorgeous! Custom. \$575,000 3500 sq. ft. Prudential CA Realty, George Millions 869-4233

472 GRAVATT DR, Claremont Hills. 4/2.5. Gorgeous East Bay views! \$549,000 Formal LR & DR. Mstr bdrm & decks. Like new! Prudential CA, Julie 540-8743 2-5

1895 LEIMERT BLVD, First Time Open! 4bdrm, 3.5 bath w/pano \$525,000 views & in-law! LaSalle Properties, Tom Erwin & Deb Riney 339-8900

910 PARAMOUNT RD, Crocker. 3+ba. 3bd up, 2bd or office suite on \$516,000 1hr level. Family rm. Deck. Remod kit. Prudential CA, Dolores Thom 834-2010 1-4

1 BINNACLE HILL, Hiller. 2+bd/3b w/SF/GG views! End unit. Vaulted \$489,000 ceilings. Garden patio w/hot tub. Prudential 845-0211, Gayle Tantau 898-9409 2-4

7237 WILD CURRENT WY, Montclair. Custom 3+bd/2.5ba home w/ \$479,000 canyon views, FDR, decks, & "granny" unit! Montclair Better Homes RE 339-4000

5931 MAZUELA DR, Stylish, sophisticated, warm, & inviting. Updtd \$459,000 3bd/2.5ba w/romantic mstr suite, fab kitchen, beautiful garden. Just minutes to Montclair village. The GRUBB Company, Judy Cain 339-0400

10935 MONAN ST, Durant. 4bd/2ba w/huge rec rm. Landscaped \$450,000 front & back. Deck. Nr Golf course. Prudential CA, Frank Jordan 834-2010 1-4

6808 CHAMBERS, Montclair. 5+bd/3ba w/hwd floors, decks, & \$449,000 lots of space! Grt area. Woodsy. Prudential CA 845-0200, Ana/Pascal 273-9332

7075 EXETER DR, Montclair. 5bd/3ba. Lots of decks! Hwd floors, \$445,000 vaulted ceilings. Woodsy setting. Prudential CA 845-0200, Ana & Pascal 273-9332

511 FLORENCE AVE, NEW LISTING. Upr Rockledge. 4+/3. Mstr suite, \$425,000 den. Incredible value in grt neighborhood! Estates Union, Kathy Flynn 339-6460

5041 PARKBRIDGE DR, Parkridge Estates New Listing! Wonderful \$419,000 2-story 4+/3 trad! w/FDR, fam rm. Lg lot. Pacific Union, Vicki Woodhead 339-6460

697 CALMAR, Crocker Highlands. 4+bd/3.5ba w/views. Level lot. \$399,000 Terrific Brown Shingle w/hdws, 2 frpls, FDR. Prudential CA, Craig Shane 869-4211

7089 EXETER DR, Montclair. 4bdrm/2ba w/hardwood, family room, \$389,000 remod kitchen & baths. Sunny & bright. 2-car garage. Lawton Assoc., Lou 547-5970

4439 TERRABELLA WAY, Original tri-level, 3bd/2+ba w/beautiful \$387,000 bay/bridge vws! EIK, FDR, family rm, 2 decks. GRUBB Co, Angela Grubb 339-0400

1107 ROSE AVE, Piedmont Ave area. New Listing! Charming gray \$375,000 shingle Cape Cod. 3/2 w/GG vw. Lvl yd. Pacific Union, Nancy Rothman 339-6460

4969 STONERIDGE CT, NEW LISTING. Ridgmont, sunny 3bd/2+ba \$369,000 w/cook's kit. FDR, fam rm. Deep yd. Pacific Union, Carolyn Jones 339-6460

2770 ARGYLE ST, Montclair Better. 3+bd/1+ba. Spacious. Walk to \$365,000 schools & Village. Montclair Better Homes Realty 339-4000 2-5

534 CHETWOOD ST, 2nd 2bd units in wonderful condition! Terrific \$357,500 location. Close to shops & transp. Prudential CA, Johnson/Ross 339-9290

4108 COOLIDGE AVE, Lincoln Heights. 2+bd/2ba in move-in \$289,000 condition! Great neighborhood. Corbett Properties, Kevin Corbett 530-4600

2531 10TH AVE, Gorgeous 5bd/2ba Edwardian on national historic \$280,000 register. 2 frpls. Wood galore. 12' ceilings. Prudential CA, Susan Casqueiro 286-7571

6323 WESTOVER DR, Montclair. 2bd/1ba private retreat in fab Oak \$279,000 tree setting. Remod kit/ba. Deck & hot tub. Pacific Union, Chuck Corwin 339-6460

1155 MOUNTAIN BL, Montclair split level w/2 entries. 2 mstr suites. \$274,000 Grt for shared living. 2-car gar, decks, patio. GRUBB Co, Judy Rankankan 339-0400

1350 HOLMAN DR, Crocker Highlands. 3/1.5 in the best neighborhood! \$269,000 Deck & SF view. Move in condition. Prudential CA 834-2010 2-5

294 PERKINS ST, Nr Lake. Formal LR & DR. Gumwood, built-ins, \$267,000 hardwoods. Charm! "As Is" and Trust Sale. Coldwell Banker, Dell Orr 339-1174

818 MCKINLEY AVE, Haddon Hill. 2+bd w/charm on great street! \$249,500 FDR, remod kit, hwdws, frpl. Lovely level backyard. Wells & Bennett, Don 482-2256

200 CALDECOTT LN #307, 2/2 top floor condo in Parkwoods. Superb \$249,000 amenities. 2 covered pkg spaces. Templeton Co, Tricia Swift 652-2133 X140 2-4

260 CALDECOTT LN #310, New Listing! Beautiful upgraded unit w/ \$244,000 2 mstr suites. Frpl, 2-car garage. Pacific Union, Rich Gould 339-6460

811 59TH ST, Near Berkeley. 3bd/2ba rebuilt Craftsman. Over 2000sf. \$239,500 LaSalle Properties, Ken Ferrell 339-8900

491 CHETWOOD ST, Cute Craftsman. Walk to Grand Ave. 3bd/1.5ba. \$235,000 Separate aprv. Level yd. Nds some cosmetics. GRUBB Co, Ed Kuo 339-0400

3454 WYMAN ST, Maxwell Park. 4bd/2ba. Total re-do inside & out! \$222,500 Prudential CA Realty, Ali Ahmed 339-9290

8321 OUTLOOK, Immaculate 2+bd/1+ba. Hwd flrs, semi-commercial \$195,000 kitchen. Frpl. Bonus rm. Bay vw. Prudential CA, Shirley Covington 287-2532

3052 SYLVAN AVE, Laurel. New Listing! Charming 2/1 bungalow in \$194,500 lg park-like setting. Lovingly maintained. Pacific Union, Diane Earl McCan 339-6460

220 CALDECOTT LN #309, New Listing! Spacious top floor 1+1/1 unit \$189,000 w/cathedral ceiling. Loft. Hiller vw. Pacific Union, Teri Carlisle 339-6460

4810 SHATTUCK AVE, North Oakland. Clean 3bd/1+ba. Good work/ \$164,950 live ideas. Great starter. Prudential CA, Marvin Chess 834-2010 2-4

322 HANOVER AVE #408, Sunny & spacious 2/2 condo by Lake \$159,000 Merritt. Frpl, w/d in unit. Fab layout. Must see! Prudential CA, Maris 867-4788

3825 HIGH ST #209, Laurel Heights. New condo listing. 2bd/2ba. \$159,000 Bridges & moats. Prudential CA Realty, Vickie Landis 339-9290

3050 SUTER ST, Laurel area. Cozy 2/1 Craftsman. Lots of built-ins. \$158,000 Warm woods & sunny. Montclair Better Homes Realty 339-4000 2-5

3317 39TH AVE, Morey & airy 3bd/1ba bungalow in move-in condition. \$153,000 Large yd. Walk to shops. Prudential CA 845-0211, Nancy Taussig 849-5316

8916 SENECA, Toler Heights. Charming & spacious 2bd/1ba bungalow \$149,950 in a quiet neighborhood. Montclair Better Homes Realty 339-8400

3790 MANILA, Temescal. 2bd/1ba w/yard & charm! \$142,000 Prudential CA Realty, Nancy Platford 845-0200 2-4

3300 38TH AVE, Opportunity for 2bd w/au pair quarters down. Cute \$129,000 Spanish style w/frpl & hwd floors. Coldwell Banker, Joan Alford 339-1174

1430 11TH AVE, 1st time buyers. Nr International Bl. 3/1. Upgraded. \$115,000 New paint in & out. Gallagher & Lindsey, Don Patterson 748-1756 2-4

ALBANY *OPEN SUNDAY 2-4*****

1085 NEILSON ST, New Listing! Immaculate MacGregor built home. \$299,000 3+bd/2ba. Many upgrades. New 1.5 car gar. Re/Max Bay Area 527-8545 2-4:30

1031 RAMONA, Larger 2bd/1ba w/a family room too! Upgraded kit & \$279,000 bath. Desirable location! Marvin Gardens 527-2700, Wendy Bakken 527-1507

ALAMEDA ***OPEN SUNDAY 2-4***

1016 ISLAND DR, Bay Farm. Large 4bd/3ba home w/mstr retreat. \$282,000 Cross Street: Mercatney. Homes-Link, Joe 748-5300

BERKELEY *OPEN SUNDAY*****

40 SAN MATEO, 3bd/1.5ba. Pristine casa de suenos. Top notch \$460,000 neighborhood! Views galore. Prudential CA, Andrew Sussman 287-5857 2-4

664 VINCENTE, 5+bd/2ba North Berkeley Gem! 2 large decks. \$859,000 Ample garage. Thornwall Properties 848-1950 2-4

1175 KEITH, Redwood contemporary. 2 loft-like bdrms. Partial \$382,000 Golden Gate view! Coldwell Banker, Candace Hyde-Ward 486-1495 2-4

1610 CEDAR, 3+bdms. 1 1/4 ba. Lovely garden. Nr shops/transp. \$280,000 Coldwell Banker, Daki Venetoulis 486-1495 2-4

1139 GILMAN, Completely fenced lot! 3bd/2ba w/nw kit & ba. Deck. \$272,000 Coldwell Banker, Lucy Armentrout-Ma 486-1495 2-4

1679 ADDISON, Walk to BART, downtown & UC. 3 bdrms. Extra \$284,000 large garage. Remodeled kitchen. Coldwell Banker, Dave Moss 486-1495 2-4

2615 TELEGRAPH AVE #302, New Listing! Bright 3rd floor unit. \$180,000 2/1 w/grt floor plan. Nr campus. Pacific Union, Rich Gould 339-6460 2-4:30

EL CERRITO *OPEN SUNDAY 2-4*****

2033 CARQUINEZ, Mira Vista Hills. Fab 3-bridge w/1 Upper level w/ \$380,000 3/2 & LR w/deck & views. Aupair suite & huge family rm on 1/2 acre. Come to BART & parks. Marvin Gardens 527-9111, Mary Gray 559-2939

6766 KENILWORTH, 2++/2.5 w/pano bay view. New paint/carpet. \$339,000 Clear pest. 2 frpl. Potential in-law. Security Pacific, Carla Zoppa 222-4005

7312 PLANK CT, 3/2 w/rumpus rm & sun porch. GG view! Nr w/1 \$280,000 paint/carpet. Super clean. Clear pest. Yard, 2-car att'd garage. Quiet cul-de-sac Security Pacific, Geri Stern 234-7808

1240 LAWRENCE ST, New listing! Extremely clean, happy house. 3/2. \$232,000 Level, light, quiet. Hwdws, frpl, garage. Award-winning Japanese garden. Sun Tarpoft & Talbert, Anet Tarpoft 653-2050

123 BEHRENS, Just listed! Sparkling clean on oversized lot. 2 bdrms. \$240,000 Remod kit & ba. Deck & backyard. Berkeley Hills RE, Jean Auka 524-9888 X13

15 WILDWOOD PL, 2 story, 3/2.5 elegant twrns in the hills! End unit \$490,000 w/vws, Frpl, patio, deck, 2-car gar. Marvin Gardens 527-9111, Barbara 559-2939

HAYWARD *OPEN SATURDAY 2-4:30*****

1280 STANHOPE LN, 2bd/2ba condo w/frpl, vaulted ceilings. \$140,000 Nr shopping & commute. Alameda Realty 522-8585, Vince San Nicholas 385-2939

KENSINGTON *OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30*****

261 AMHERST AVE, A small residence w/a large sweeping SF view! \$250,000 1bd/1ba w/ beautiful vistas from every room! GRUBB Co, Carin Caron 339-0400

PIEDMONT *OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30*****

62 INVERLEITH TER, 6bd/6ba Mediterranean on 3/4 acre. Mature \$249,000 rooms. Gardens! Pools! Views! Prudential CA 428-0900, Martine Erickson 273-9332

151 WALDO AVE, Fab elegant trad! w/Mediterranean flair! Spacious \$440,000 mstr w/office. Lovely detail. Bonus room. GRUBB Co, D. J. Grubb 339-0400

2066 OAKLAND AVE, Charming 3bd w/hwd floors, gourmet kitchen, \$439,000 book-filled library, & peaceful garden. A Gem! GRUBB Co, Alan Thurnley 339-0400

15 LITTLEWOOD DR, 4bd/2.5ba contemporary home with swimming \$469,000 pool. Cross Street: Dudley. Homes-Link, Margaret 748-5300

1243 GRAND AVE, 2+bd/1+ba trad! w/cherry oakwood detailing. \$339,000 FDR, plus room, garage, back garden. GRUBB Co, Sheila Gallagher 339-0400

RICHMOND *OPEN SUNDAY 2-4*****

5616 CARLOS, R. Annex. Clean 2bd/1ba. 1 car garage. Fully fenced \$219,000 yard. Laundry rm. Security Pacific, David K. 758-2323

SAN LEANDRO *OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30*****

1137 TULIP LANE,

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New tax laws affect time-honored real estate deductions

By Dennis Kamensky

Let's say you and your spouse are making more than \$160,000 and trying not to give it all away to the government in income taxes. You can't do a Roth IRA, a regular IRA, take child tax credits, deduct student loan interest, or get a Hope or Lifetime Learning tax credit.

What can you do?

The best "tax shelter" always seemed to be investing in real estate when buying a bigger, more expensive home or investing in income property and taking advantage of all the tax benefits.

Well, it's not that easy anymore to simply lower your income taxes through more real estate. Let's examine the latest tax laws involving real estate deductions and see what can avail a higher-income taxpayer.

First, there's the tax deductions on your own home (the so-called "principal residence"). Under new laws you can deduct mortgage interest on your principal residence and one other non-income property (such as a vacation home, or even a motor home or sleep-in boat).

Interest deductions

You can deduct interest on ac-

quisition indebtedness and home-equity indebtedness.

Acquisition indebtedness involves mortgages used to purchase, construct, or improve your principal residence and one other non-income property. Home-equity indebtedness has to do with refinancing, or adding new loans, to these properties.

You may be able to deduct interest on acquisition indebtedness on up to \$1,000,000 of loans.

Refinancing

The other aspect of getting the interest deduction involves refinancing, or taking out additional loans on your properties. This is called home equity indebtedness and is defined for income tax purposes as taking out new loans, or additional loan money, that is not to be used to make improvements on the property. The interest on home equity indebtedness is limited to a total loan amount of \$100,000 or less. So, if you refinanced, paid off your existing mortgage and received more than \$100,000 from the loan proceeds you would be limited in your tax deduction.

But if any of the deductions are used to make repairs or improvements on the property within 90 days of get-

ting this new loan, they are considered acquisition indebtedness and subject to the much higher \$1,000,000 limitation amount. Take this into account before you decide to refinance.

Property taxes

The other important tax deduction on non-income real estate is property taxes. There is no tax limitation, on amount or even on the number of properties.

Even if you own more than two non-income properties (including vacant land) you can deduct all of the property taxes that were paid that tax year.

Slack for real estate professionals

If you or your spouse can be classified as a "real estate professional," this income, or net loss, limitation doesn't apply.

To be considered a real estate professional one of you has to be involved with real estate at least 750 hours during the year, make more than one-half of their income through real estate, and if they are a wage-earner must own at least five percent of the business.

Most real estate professionals are

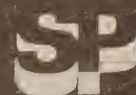
real estate agents, loan brokers, or property managers.

tant in Oakland. His commu-

Tax Pros, can be reached

Dennis Kamensky is a tax account-

530-6001.



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EL CERRITO

GOLDEN GATE VIEW/QUIET CUL-DE-SAC.....\$285,000
3BR/2BA Plus Rumpus rm and sunroom, **7312 Plank Ct.** (Open Sun. 2-4) Super clean! New: Neutral carpet, paint, linoleum, clear pest report, roof, 2 car attached garage. #99003459
Geri Stern (510) 234-7808



PANORAMIC BAY VIEW/QUIET STREET.....\$339,000
2+BA, 2/5BA, Den, **6766 Kenilworth (Open Sun. 2-4)** Over 2260 sq. ft., 2 Fireplaces, dining area, New: Paint, neutral carpet, linoleum, 2 car attached garage, downstairs potential in-law. Carla Della Zoppa (510) 669-5227



RICHMOND/HILLTOP

AFFORDABLE CONDO IN GREAT LOCATION.....\$98,500
1 bedroom, 1 bath, 3774 Stoneglenn North. Almost new condo located in the classy Hilltop Villages development. All appliances included, pool, club house. Convenient to shopping, transportation. Be sure to ask about our special financing.
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RICHMOND/EL SOBRANTE

COUNTRY LIVING IN THE CITY.....\$214,500
Newer 3BR/2BA on quiet cul-de-sac. House is almost new/move-in condition. Beautiful yard. Appliances stay, and laundry room, private fenced yard. #99001352
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RICHMOND ANNEX

GREAT STARTER.....\$147,500
5616 Carlos (Open Sun 2-4) 5 Blocks to BART. 2BR/1BA clean 1 car garage, fully fenced yard, and laundry room. Over 902 sq. ft. #99001251 David K. (510) 758-2323

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.....\$199,950
Two story 3 bedroom, 2 and a half bath stylish unit with views, master bedroom suite, fireplace, private patio, deck and large 2-car garage. Serene residential neighborhood. 15 Wildwood Place, El Cerrito, Open Sun. 2-4 p.m. Barbara Kaplan 527-9111, 559-2910

WONDERFUL ALBANY HOME!

.....\$279,000
NEW LISTING! Larger 2 bedroom with a family room too. Upgraded kitchen and bath in a desirous location. Open Sunday 2/28, 2-4 p.m. 1013 Ramona, Albany. Wendy Bakken 527-1507

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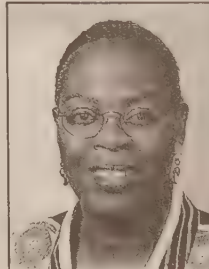
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Prudential California Realty

The Auto Section

The Montclarion, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, Alameda Journal

February 25-26, 1999

Section D

Teen warning Avoid deadly mistakes on the road with street-savvy guide [D2]

Featured classic Get behind the wheel of this 1954 Nash Metropolitan [D3]

Motor Mart The hills are alive with the sound of deals made [D4]

Mercedes-Benz ML430 inspires fans, foes

SUV handles like a smooth sedan;
people 'either love or hate' redesign

Mercedes-Benz ML430 took the mid-market sport-utility segment by storm when it introduced the ML430 last year — and for '99 it is out to become a leader in the luxury sector with its ML430.

The ML430 is almost a near duplicate of the 320, but under its hood there is a V-8 engine which will push the SUV from 0 to 60 mph in eight seconds — a full second quicker than the V-6 version — and allow it to tow heavier loads.

In addition to its V-8 engine and higher level of standard equipment, the ML430 is distinguished from its V-6-powered sibling with body-color bumpers, rocker panels and side moldings and 17-inch alloy wheels with super-large 275/55-17 M+S rated tires.

The added weight and power does nothing to detract from its ride. It is hard to distinguish its ride from a sedan — and that is one of its top selling points.

Like all Mercedes-Benz offerings, the ML430 shines with the latest technology. It includes as standard equipment four-wheel independent suspension, four-wheel electronic traction control and a standard Electronic Stability Program (ESP).

Also standard is the innovative Brake Assist, the only safety system that reduces braking distances in emergency or "panic" stops.

Road test

By Arnold and Marion Wechter

As we wrote in our ML320 test report, the styling is the lone factor which we found controversial. You either like it or hate it. There doesn't appear to be any middle ground. Marion described its appearance as looking like a "humpbacked whale."

Despite Marion's dim view of the styling, nothing would make her happier than owning one. She is proud advocate of SUVs — and the handling and performance of the ML430 make it one of her favorites.

"I'll take ride, handling, comfort and safety over appearance every time," Marion said.

The styling while controversial is aerodynamic. It provides a coefficient of drag of .39, best-in-class. This cuts down on wind noise and improves economy.

Our test ML430 came with the optional standard glass sunroof. For those who are sunroof lovers, there is a \$2,395 power Skyview top option. This provides a huge roof opening (about 4-foot long by 3-foot wide) and allows rear-seat passengers to enjoy the same open air feel-

See MERCEDES, Page D2



Saab up and away with 1999 Viggen

The 1999 Saab 9-3 Viggen (inset) is the most exclusive performance Saab yet. Its aggressive torque curve, 17-inch wheels, sports suspension, performance brakes and aerodynamic styling make this limited edi-

tion Saab a worthy tribute to its aircraft sibling, the Saab 37 Viggen fighter jet.

Just like its aeronautic namesake, the earthbound Viggen is both agile and versatile, ideal for reconnaissance of a fa-

vorite twisty road, or safely transporting pilots to their favorite landing strip.

At the very least, it should lighten up their daily commute.

-Motor Matters

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\$14,100

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'99 CIVIC EX 2DR-AUTOMATICS! FINAL OFFER!

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'99 ACCORD LX 4DR. AUTOMATICS! FINAL OFFER

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'99 ACCORD EX 4DR. AUTOMATIC! FINAL OFFER

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UNLIKE ITS COMPETITION, the Mercedes-Benz ML430 4WD system does not lock its axles as it attempts to maintain off-road traction.

Mercedes

FROM PAGE D1

ing as do the front occupants.

Its new-generation 268-horsepower 4.3-liter V-8 and driver-adaptive five-speed automatic transmission not only provides quicker starts and improved passing performance, but exceptional low-end torque while meeting the standards for participation in the National Low Emission Vehicle (NLEV) program.

The torque peak of 288 ft/lbs is spread over a range from 3000 to 4500 rpm making it an ideal vehicle for towing. It is also a comparatively thrifty for a V-8-powered vehicle. Our test vehicle averaged from 15.5 to 16.4 mpg in combined city and freeway driving and 17.4 mpg in a strict highway test.

The electronic five-speed automatic adapts not only to the driver's individual style but also to changes in road grade. Engage the standard low-range automatically and you activate the special shifting logic for off-road driving.

Driving the ML430 is a breeze. Thanks to its four-wheel independent suspension and exceptional strength and torsional rigidity of its body, the SUV handles and rides beautifully.

Neither of us took the test vehicle off-road, but we drove the V-6 version on a tough course during its introduction and the V-8 should prove an even better performer when it leaves the pavement.

No driver intervention is needed with the full-time four-wheel-drive system. The system uses front, center and rear "open" differential that,

even under normal driving conditions, provides 50/50 torque distribution front/rear.

The two-speed electronically controlled transfer case provides true off-road ability. Unlike the competition, the system does not lock its axles as it attempts to maintain traction in off-road conditions. Instead, an electronic four-wheel traction control system senses wheel slip and brakes the slipping wheels and transfer torque to the wheels with most grip. Mercedes-Benz claims that the system will provide mobility even when three wheels lose traction.

Like all other M-B vehicles, the ML430 is equipped with large disc brakes at all corners, and four-channel, four-wheel anti-lock brakes, dual front airbags and front door-mounted side-impact airbags.

The sleek interior with its standard leather seats also includes heated, power-operated front seats, leather-wrapped steering wheel and shift knob, privacy glass, auto-dimming rear-view mirror, trip computer and wood interior trim. There is also a nifty safe box under the front passenger seat.

We both praise the comfort of the individual front seats and rear bench seat, which will seat three adults.

Three stalks off the adjustable steering column provide all major controls. The top left stalk operates the cruise control while the lower left stalk controls the turn signals, high beams and headlights. The right stalk operates the windshield wiper/washer.

Parents of small children will appreciate the location of the electric window controls. They are placed on the center console, front and back, so that little fingers cannot play with them while seated in their safety seats.

The driver will not find any ma-

jor blind spots while keeping his eye on traffic from the front, back and sides. Visibility is excellent in all directions.

The ML430 is a premium sport-utility vehicle. It offers the comfort of a sedan with the ability to go anywhere — on and off-road.

M-B ML430

Specifications

- Type: sport-utility vehicle
- Base price: \$43,750
- As tested: \$46,965
- Options on test vehicle: Bose premium audio system with six-disc changer (\$1,050); glass sunroof (\$1,095); metallic paint (\$475); destination charge (\$595)
- Engine: 90 degree V-8, cast-aluminum block and heads
- Displacement: 426 cc
- Horsepower: 268 bhp @ 5750 rpm
- Torque: 288 ft/lbs @ 4000 rpm
- Transmission: Five-speed automatic
- Steering: rack-and-pinion, power assist
- Brakes: vented front discs, solid rear disc, ABS
- Wheelbase: 111.0 in.
- Overall length: 180.6 in.
- Width: 72.2 in.
- Height: 69.9 in.
- Track, front/rear: 60.4/60.4 in.
- Curb weight: 4,552 lbs.
- Fuel capacity: 19.0 gal.
- EPA rating: 15 mpg city, 18 mpg highway

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Teen survival training must include savvy with sun, speed and drinkers

Two highway crashes in one week which took the lives of several young people now dominate my local news. Each crash taught tragic lessons in highway survival that young people must know to get out of their teens alive.

Don't drive with drinkers

"Don't drink and drive" is a drum beat often sounded. "Don't be a passenger in a drunk's car" should be heard as often.

In one of the week's crashes, the 20-year-old driver of a small sedan was shown to have a blood alcohol level three times the legal limit. No alcohol was found in the blood of the teenagers with him, one as young as fourteen. Two of them died when the driver crossed the highway median and slammed head-on into a Jeep Wrangler.

Not all drivers who are alcohol-impaired show it. Well-known is the case of the man who drove the car in which Princess Diana was killed. Post-mortem tests proved him to be intoxicated, but it's doubtful any of his three passengers suspected that. The man is seen on that much-repeated videotape of the revolving door scene at the Ritz Hotel. Did he look drunk to you?

Many drinkers are adept at looking sober even when alcohol has altered their reaction times and compromised their judgment. Can we expect teenagers, eager to jump in and go somewhere, to notice the state of the person at the wheel? How can they, or anyone for that matter, avoid the risks of getting into a car with an impaired driver?

The first step is to be aware of the possibility. Obviously, a ride home from a party or the local pub is chancier than a lift after a PTA meeting. Be doubly diligent where liquor is served. Check with the party's host how much the proposed driver imbibed, or ask the driver point blank how much he or she has had to drink. Rude? Conventions change when your life and limb are at risk. And remember taxis are usually a phone call away.

Parents should make it clear to their youngsters that they will gladly pick them up any time any place if any doubt arises about the sobriety of the driver of a car in which they would be riding. Or the cost of a taxi

Drive, she said

By Denise McLuggage

will be gladly provided. The key word is "gladly." If the teen is going to see this parental rescue entered on the scoreboard of "look what I do for you" then it won't work.

Speed differential kills

The second crash occurred as the glare of a rising sun burst over the horizon. Eight teenagers, some in a car and others in a van, were nose-to-tail heading eastward on their way to school when an 18-wheeler

plowed into them from behind.

The teenage drivers admitted they were purposely driving very slowly, between 25 and 45 mph, because they didn't want to get to school too early. The driver of the semi said she did not see the vehicles at all because of the brilliant sun coming directly through her windshield. All three drivers were cited for speed violations. The truck for going too fast, the teenagers for going too slow.

That mix is a recipe for disaster. It is the difference in the speed of vehicles on the highway, particularly major highways such as interstates,

See SAVVY, Page D3

Auto

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Savvy

The sun can be deadly.

Occasionally, on stopping, the idle will fluctuate. The dealer checked the computer for trouble codes; none found. They cleaned the throttle body and it idled fine at the shop. Next morning, the same problem. I unplugged the idle air bypass valve to keep the idle consistent and had to raise the idle speed by the set screw.

See AUTODOC, Page D8

See NASH, Page D8

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1994 Jeep Grand Cherokee 251155A

1995 Mazda Miata P2047

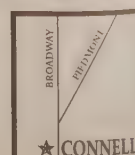
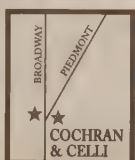
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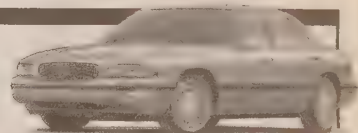
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Audi A6 Avant restores pride to all-American station wagon

By ARNOLD and MARION WECHTER

Do the Europeans know something that the domestic automakers overlooked?

Every European automaker importing its cars to North America, including Audi, VW, Saab, Volvo, BMW and Mercedes-Benz offers a station wagon. Only Ford Motor Co., among the domestics and we're including Chrysler, offers a station wagon.

Station wagons, in this writer's opinion, offer more to buyers than either minivans or sport-utility vehicles. They offer more space and better ride than sport utility vehicles and are handsomer than a minivan. There is a major difference to the approach taken by the domestic industry from that of the Europeans. The Europeans offer sport wagons with both a stylish appearance and excellent performance. Domestic models generally were people haulers and lacked either performance or style.

The new Audi A6 Avant is an excellent example of the European approach. It is a luxury-touring wagon. The 1999 model offers trend-setting design and advanced features, which takes the meaning of Avant further than ever before. This fourth generation delivers on Audi's slogan: beautiful wagons are called Avant.

Derived from the A6 sedan platform, the Avant's dominant rear end, smooth contours and distinctive lights strengthen its visual appeal while still providing a high degree of product identification. It is both stylish with a classic appearance.

It proves that a station wagon doesn't have to look like a box. It offers a dynamic side view with a gently rising window line, black center roof posts and bold wheel arches. Along with the above features it also offers the unmistakable Audi face and front end.

More important than its styling, Audi devised a new body assembly process, which has increased the torsional rigidity by 50 percent, and exterior seam gaps have been reduced 33 percent. This leads to a quiet impressive ride and handling that is in the same class or higher as its leading European and Asian rivals.

Driving around town and on freeways we were impressed with the Avant's controlled ride. Thanks to the standard all-wheel drive system (Quattro). We always felt secure—even on the tightest turns at high speed.



REVIEWERS SAY the Audi A6 Avant makes a fine SUV alternative.

We again learned the advantage all-wheel drive during the driver over roads labeled "Slippery when wet." Driving the Avant in wet weather proved to be a breeze.

We found the 200 horsepower, 2.8-liter five-valve V-6 engine more than adequate for all normal driving conditions, though its 0 to 60 mph time of 9.6 seconds does point out the need for additional horsepower. Reportedly Audi is considering bringing the V-8 used in the Audi 8 to the A6 sedan and Avant lines in the future.

There was a day when 9.6 seconds was considered quick but in today's market it is on the outer edge. Marion, in particular, prefers a little more power for quick entry onto freeways and passing situations.

Fuel economy is good for a station wagon. We averaged 20.8 mpg and the EPA says 17-mpg City and 26 mpg on the road. The 200 horses arrive at 6000 rpm and its full 207 ft/lbs of torque at 3200 rpm.—at least 650 rpm lower than the nearest competitor for better off line acceleration.

The high-end torque also provides more control from the standard five-speed automatic transmission with Tiptronic. This transmission borrowed from Porsche can be used like a normal automatic or as a manual unit without the need to use the clutch.

The joy of shifting, in our opinion, comes from the coordination between the driver's left foot on the clutch and his right hand on the gearshift lever.

Marion claims to agree with our view, but we notice she played with the Tiptronic at every opportunity. The disc brakes at all four corners with the latest anti-lock braking system bring the Avant to a quick and straight halt.

This mid-size wagon seats five adults comfortably and there is an optional seat for two children.

There is 36.4 cubic feet of storage space with the rear seat in position. Fold it down and the space increases 73.2 cubic feet.

Those numbers are only meaningful if they can be well used. We both discovered the Avant provides both versatility and ease of use. The 45.1 inch opening across the tailgate opens widely for ease of access.

Three 'atmospheres'

Like the A6 sedan, the Avant offers a choice from three different "atmospheres," which owners can choose from at no extra cost, to allow them to personalize their cars.

Each "atmosphere" surrounds its occupants with a distinctly different character—distinguished by the appearance of the upholstery, color and type of wood and aluminum trim, and the sew pattern of the upholstery. The atmospheres are "Ambition," "Ambiente" and "Advance."

Ambition offers a classic touch with reach, dark walnut wood trim and classic muted colors.

Ambiente is Mediterranean in feel with lighter sycamore wood trim and bolder colors.

Advance offers warm, earth tones and silk-matte walnut wood trim.

Each atmosphere is available in at least two color choices and can be specified in leatherette. Leather is an extra cost option.

For '99, Audi has added a larger right outside mirror, lockable headrests for the front seats, fasteners added to the rear floor mats, a force limiter added to the front seat belts, a first aid kit in the center rear armrest and an upgraded tool kit.

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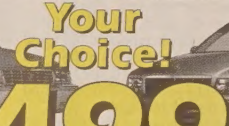
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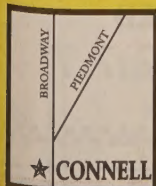
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Autodoc

FROM PAGE D3

slightly in the opposite direction of the noise. There is no miracle wax treatment for the windshield.

Why the whine?

Dear Doctor: I purchased a new 1998 Dodge Stratus with a 2.5-liter V6 engine.

Since the purchase there has been a high pitch whine from the gears in the transaxle. At 10,000 miles, the dealer replaced the transaxle assembly with a new unit that is just as noisy as the original. I can hear the noise over the radio.

The dealer now says the noise is normal. Have you ever heard of this? Thomas

Dear Thomas: The majority of front-wheel drive Chrysler products have a slight whine emitting from the transaxle assembly. I have heard it on the Chrysler cars and minivans that I have driven. The noise has never been loud enough to overcome the radio.

This noise is usually heard between 30 to 45 mph.

If your noise comes over the radio, this is not normal. Go back to the dealer and test drive another Stratus on the lot.

You should also ask for an appointment with the local Chrysler zone representative.

Warm-starts lffy

Dear Doctor: I recently purchased a used 1989 Honda Civic LX with a 1.6-liter engine and 133,000 miles.

On occasions, the car will not start after the engine is warm. I went to the Honda dealer who checked it and found trouble codes in the computer memory. The codes were for the oxygen sensor and main relay.

The cost of repair is \$395. I went to an independent shop and their quote was \$330. What do you recommend? Marc

Dear Marc: The first step after retrieving trouble codes is clear the codes and restart the engine, even take the car for a ride to see if the trouble codes reappear.

If the codes reappear then a repair has to be made. I recommend the oxygen sensor be replaced on fuel injected vehicles at 50,000 miles. The oxygen sensor will get lazy and cause poor mileage and performance.

For your intermittent starting problem, the shop will need to find out if you are losing spark or fuel. I have seen more spark related problems than fuel problems on Honda vehicles. The igniter has been a problem over the years for Honda.

Balky voltmeter

Dear Doctor: I own a 1994 Chevrolet Suburban with 37,000 miles. In my five years of ownership, the voltmeter gauge has always read 14 volts when driving on the freeway.

At 36,000 miles I had the a/c compressor replaced. Now whenever I turn the air conditioner on, the voltmeter will drop down to 12.5 volts on the freeway or driving around town. The dealer said there is nothing wrong. What do you think? Jim

Dear Jim: The voltmeters on Chevrolet vans and trucks are not the most accurate gauges. You need to go to the dealer or good repair shop and have them simply connect the shop battery/charging tester to the battery and actually see what the charging rate is.

It is normal to see 12 volts at idle with lights and a/c on. However, as soon as the idle speed is raised the voltage should go up to 13.7 or 14.7 depending on the amperage of the alternator. I would not recommend spending the money to replace the in dash voltmeter.

Many auto parts stores sell a voltmeter that simply plugs into the cigarette lighter.

Please forward your questions to: Auto Doctor, 3 Court Circle, Lakeville, MA 02347.

Nash

FROM PAGE D3

school at Stanford University.

In 1963, they drove their Nash Metropolitan to Waco, Texas, for a two-year stay. The little car finally got to the East Coast in 1965, when the Chandeyssons drove it to Arlington, Va., on 5.20x13-inch tires.

On long, highway-only trips, Chandeysson reports mileage figures between 40 and 45 mpg. They were entertained along the way by the AM radio that occupies the lion's share of the painted metal dashboard. Five louvers stamped in the center of the dash function as the speaker grille.

Above the five-louver grille is a tiny "Airlyte" ashtray. Below the grille is the button the driver pulls to activate the starter.

The three controls to the right of the starter button are the throttle, ignition and cigar lighter.

There's a doorless glove compartment at the right end of the dashboard, and a gauge to indicate the fuel level in the 10 1/2-gallon tank, as well as an oil pressure gauge, but

no temperature gauge.

"It has a terrific heater," Chandeysson said. "It will roast you."

At the top edge of the horn button at the center of the two-spoke steering wheel is a lever to operate the turn signals. The signal lever self-cancels after the turn.

Over the years, the Nash Metropolitan has been repainted twice and reupholstered once. It's never been wrecked, unless you count the time an errant Ford tapped the rear and broke the left tail light.

The Metropolitan was driven almost every day more than a decade — it was the family car.

The Nash Metropolitan has even served the Chandeyssons' children, Karen, Paul Jr. and Mark. All three have had time behind the wheel of the car with the 85-inch wheelbase. "Wherever anyone goes in the little car," Chandeysson says, "we always find a parking place."

In 1971, Chandeysson put his little car into semi-retirement. Since then it

has become sort of a family pet.

Chandeysson's wife has supplied the chrome eyelids for the headlights. "It gives the car kind of a shy look," her husband observes.

Whenever the little engine develops what Chandeysson describes as "a little hitch in its getalong," he rolls up his sleeves and fixes the problem.

The most complicated part is probably the single-barrel Zenith downdraft carburetor.

Chandeysson's "Little Bitty Buddy" now has 102,652 miles recorded on the odometer, which is surprising since he didn't plan on keeping it for very long.

Every time he or his wife takes the Nash Metropolitan out for a spin, they never fail to get a flurry of "thumbs up" signals from anonymous fans as they pass by. "It was cute then," Chandeysson says, "and it's cute now."

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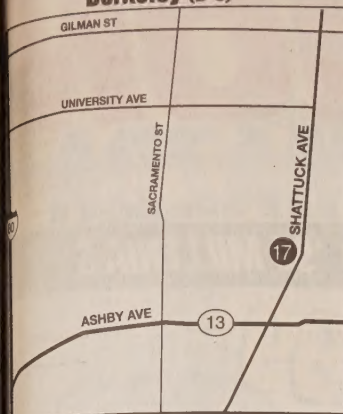
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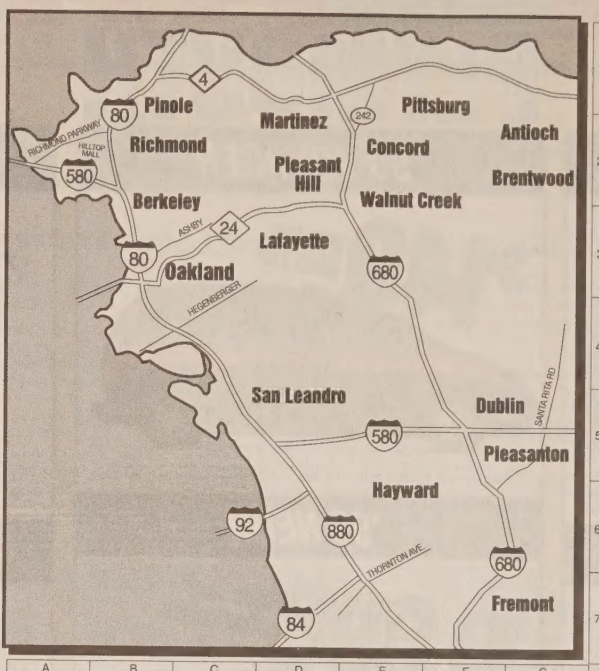
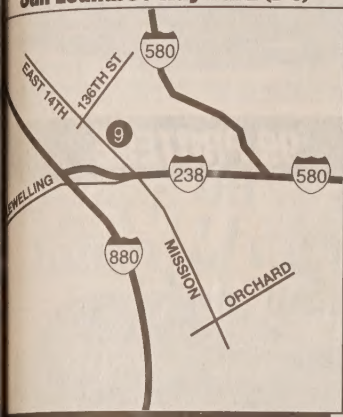
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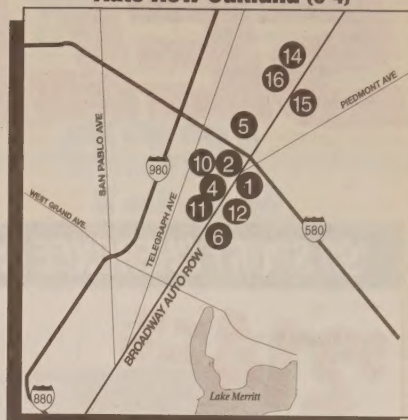
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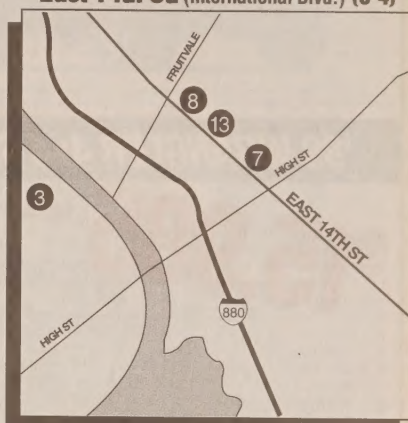
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\$214 per mo.
plus tax



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- ☒ Spare Tire Cover
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plus tax

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- ☒ Power Locks
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\$279 per mo.
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36 mo closed end lease. 36 mos. at \$279 + tax. Total payment \$10,044 + tax. Residual \$11,931. Lease drive off \$3,000 down + 1st pymt, lic. bank fee & tax. Cap price \$22,895, 12k mylr. One at this price. VIN #545434

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\$299 per mo.
plus tax



36 mo. closed end lease. 36 mos. at \$299 + tax. Total pymt \$10,799.64 + tax. Residual \$16,731. Lease drive off \$4,000 down + 1st pymt, lic. \$425 bank fee & tax. Cap price \$29,998, 12k mylr. One at this price. VIN #2828

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- ☒ Power Windows
- ☒ Tilt
- ☒ Cruise
- ☒ V-6
- ☒ Dual AC
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